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The Haston Couloir is a new rucsac with twin aluminium strips moulded into double thickness karrimor material with extra protective padding. It fits into a special frame pocket and is additional to the chest-attached padded back.

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The Haston Couloir is a new rucsac built to the same high standards as the Haston climbing sac, whilst still providing all the benefits of a bodyhugging country skier.

Church Reaction, Room 14, Floor 4, 37 Flinders St, Melbourne, Vic. 3000. Tel: (03) 635995 or (03) 635996.

ALP U TURN

The ALP's uranium policy has been changed considerably. In what way, and why?

LAND CLAIMS OR NO GAMES

The Commonwealth Games are a stark reminder of the illegal seizure of Aboriginal land and the oppression and genocide of Aboriginal people. The Games will provide a focus for international attention on the apartheid system in Queensland.

UNIONS, URANIUM AND YOU

What were the pressures that brought about recent ACTU executive decisions on uranium policy? And what can unions do now to stop uranium mining?

NATIONAL CON

The Australian National Conservation Strategy suggests that we need to "integrate conservation with development". But rational use of our natural resources may be incompatible with our economic system.

CONTENTS

NO BOOM FOR WOMEN

The shift in expenditure towards infrastructure for the 'resource boom' has created only a few service jobs for women. These jobs are mostly part time or casual and low paid. The shift has also caused reductions in social expenditure.

ANTARCTICA GETTING HOT WATER

An eight page Chain Reaction supplement looking at threats to the Antarctic ecosystem and the global environment from oil exploitation.

PACIFIC FIRST STRIKE

The 110-megawatt Tembeling hydroelectric project will submerge 130 sq km of peninsular Malaysia's only National Park and will displace 5000 people. Other sites and energy sources are available but work may begin in 1984.

Cover: Latrobe Valley (Photo: Friends of the Earth Collingwood). Inset: Woman working as pattern cutter in the clothing industry (Photo: Fench Hawks). Design: Margie Kaye.

*25.00 recommended retail price, ISBN 0371 - 1372. All material in Chain Reaction is copyright © Chain Reaction, 1982. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint articles or graphics please write to the editors who will give all possible assistance. Views expressed by authors are not necessarily those of the publisher. Contributions to Chain Reaction are invited. Please try to send items typed, on one side of the page, double spaced and with wide margins. Keep a copy. We do not have sufficient resources and people to return manuscripts. These few guidelines help in bringing out the magazine better and faster. The summer edition will appear in early December 1982.
Friends of the Earth (the Ryde) have found oddly placed radiation warning signs on a pipeline in the Lane Cove National Park, on Sydney Harbour.

The big questions are: What is the pipeline carrying? And, from where? Will it ever have its signs on a pipeline in the Lane Cove National Park, Collingwood, Sydney. The committee had found that V乫s containing radioactive waste. Action had been taken by the committee by writing to the NSW Health Minister, Lawrence J. Bere forex. In an effort to find records listing government departments and private companies using radioactive materials in the area. Zuzana Kiran

Willawong waste dump

A recent House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation investigation on hazardous chemical wastes reported on the applying of liquid chemical disposal at the Willawong liquid waste disposal dump in the outer suburbs of Brisbane. The committee did not consider that waste materials containing radioactive waste was suitable for the most well-controlled site which will be top the ground with lead. It is then proposed to use the area as a sportfield. The committee disclosed that wastes were not suitable for the most well-controlled site which will be top the ground with lead. It is then proposed to use the area as a sportfield.

Ryde radiation

The Water Board and the Division of Occupational Health and Radiation Control have failed to give me any written explanation despite requests. In investigating the contents of the mail, the committee has found that there are radioactive waste. Action has been taken by the committee by writing to the NSW Health Minister, Lawrence J. Berefore, in an effort to find records listing government departments and private companies using radioactive materials in the area.

The number of volunteers will now make money problems worse.

Chain Reaction

Dear Friends of the Earth

Please find enclosed my membership fee (as listed below).

Name: 
Address: 
Postcode: 
Telephone: 
Membership fee: NSW $16 (18 concessions): Vic $20 (15); WA $15 ($5.50) or whatever you can afford. The amount of all membership fees goes to support the work of the Friends of the Earth and the group to post the group (we list below). Donations are very welcome. Contact us for details on how to make donations.

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2 Chain Reaction

Dear Bill Reid, of Friends of the Earth Ryde, with the radiation hazard symbol on the pipeline through Lane Cove National Park, Sydney.

Ecology/ideology

* I hope you can publish this letter in Chain Reaction. I have worked bloody hard for FOE but lack an ideology (which is fine). I need more than some people, but less than others, and some of the outer experience of the world worked for me (or whatever) (or lack of it) within FOE. FOE appeared to me to be run on a liberal-according-to you basis, while in others attempts at coherent ideology. Some argued that FOE’s many varied campaigns required equally varied methods and that a uniform structure or commitment to an ideology would be repressive. I found that the lack of uniform policy did not lead to free thinking, but to confused practice and internal faction-fights. Often there was sense of ‘reaction’ rather than planned action.

In that every action, and every structure, implicitly supports some ideological position (whether those are current or not), failure to examine the ideological basis of actions can result in unthinking support of baseless viewpoints. The lack of structured ideas and coherent ideology is in light of these sorts of reasons.

I disagree strongly with the following statement: ‘The idea that Andrew Herington seemed to be stating in his article is that “ecology” is a fluid concept, is a phenomenon of the times, and can be manipulated to suit the needs of those in power. This is a dangerous, and a major source of confusion within FOE.’ FOE is a collective. We are much closer now to nuclear holocaust and genetic wipeout than ever before. Radical change in our thinking, and not just two-yearly conferences, is needed to avoid wipeout than ever before.

While reading through the Winter 82 edition of Chain Reaction, the following question of Andrew Herington seemed to be stating in his article is that “ecology” is a fluid concept, is a phenomenon of the times, and can be manipulated to suit the needs of those in power. This is a dangerous, and a major source of confusion within FOE.

On reading through the Winter 82 edition of Chain Reaction, a more important question than the frequency of Chain Reaction is its content. On a South Australian and a national scale, the Honeymoon uranium project is a very important stage in the environmental movement’s fight against uranium mining.

The May action at Honeymoon then was very important, but only half a column was written about it. While the article on sexual harassment is very important, but only half a column was written about it.

That the action should be taken at a uranium mine. It was very successful, particularly in making the Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Australia a practical reality rather than just a twice-yearly conference. That the action should be basically ignored by the magazine that bills itself ‘the main anti-nuclear magazine in Australia’ (Leigh Holloway’s) words) is unforgiveable.

The Marxist rhetoric of the Honeymoon article does not reflect our feelings that the answers to the problems to our industrialised world lie beyond capitalism or socialism, and require a new ideological basis and new strategy. While our interest in the environment movement’s fight against uranium mining is certainly room for a coherent ideological position (whether it is an anti-intellectualist position or an ideology is being discussed elsewhere) is unforgiveable.

It is in light of these sorts of considerations that your ‘Ecology and Ideology’ series is valuable to me, and propping of the unity of FOE.

Kimberly O’Sullivan

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EARTH NEWS

Nicaragua floods

The recent concentrated outpouring of popular and diplomatic concern has forced the USA leaders to take a more conciliatory approach to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Reagan has shelved his demand that the USA withdraw from Afghanistan before disarmament talks could begin. The USA Congress House Foreign Affairs Committee voted 20 to 4 in favour of the nuclear freeze resolution, however, the House of Representatives defeated the resolution by 104 to 102, which reflects Reagan's power.

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NAME

ADDRESS

Postcode

The recent United Nations Special Session on Disarmament in New York, United States of America, is easy to dismiss as an irrelevant and expensive non-event. The Special Session was destined to fail in its great mission to establish a comprehensive program of disarmament within specific time frames because of the power of veto. Nevertheless, the valiant attempt of so many, non-aligned, Third World and concerned aligned countries to establish a twenty year program for disarmament has been worthwhile.

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Overpowered

Power consumption in Tasmania grew by 1.8% compared with the Hydro-Electric Commission's forecast, of 3.0%, for the year ending May 1982. Since then, TEMCO, EZ and COMALCO among others have all announced reductions in operations, potentially a 10% reduction in Tasmania's overall power usage by late 1983.

Meanwhile, support for the campaign for the South West Tasmanian wilderness is increasing on the mainland. Tourist postcard from the Gordon River in South West Tasmania.
Wollongong workers' woe

A meeting of steelworkers in early August called for a stop to the work of the Wollongong Broken Proprietary (BHP) workers to plan a fight against BHP's job-cuts plans. The meeting was announced in the local paper and broadcast in a five-language leaflet throughout the steel town. Child care was provided.

It was resolved that: This meeting of steelworkers and citizens declares its full support for a stop work meeting at the Wollongong smelter. We are now aware of what the companies are doing in the steel industry, which is to mass sack the working class in the overseas of steel to introduce job-destroying technology. Elsewhere in Wollongong 650 ironworkers struck when Metal Manufacturers sacked fifteen workers.


TMI rejected

By a narrow religious margin of two to one, residents in the area of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, Pennsylvania USA, voted on Tuesday, 18 May 1979, to keep the undamaged Unit One reactor closed down. The question put to the voters was: Do you favour the restart of TMI Unit One which was not involved in the accident on March 28 1979?

At the time of the accident, the Unit Two plant, Unit One was closed down for maintenance work. Since then the reactor has not been allowed to start up.

A month ago, a Rolling Reactions group conceded by saying that the decision to restart was 'too complex' and that the issue has been decided on the basis of religious doctrine.


Global pesticides

Hundreds of thousands of people are being poisoned each year, thousands fatally, due to the indiscriminate sale and misuse of hazardous chemical pesticides throughout the world.

The Pesticide Action Network (PAN). International was formed at a conference in Malaysia in May 1982 to combat the trend posed by multi-national corporations' aggressive marketing of dangerous chemicals. Consumer, environmental and development action groups from sixteen countries attended the conference, hosted by the International Organization of Consumer Unions and Friends of the Earth Malaysia.

Two Australian organisations are founding members of PAN International: Australian Consumers Association and the Food Justice Centre FOE Collingwood. These groups are working on both the Australian and international dimensions of hazardous chemical pesticide abuse.

Contact: Australian Consumers Association, 38 Queen St, Chip­pendale, NSW 2008; Tel: (02) 928 8000. Food Justice Centre, FOE Collingwood, 366 Sydney Road, Brunswick, Vic 3056; Tel: (03) 419 8700.

Woolloomooloo mural history

The homeless people who live underneath the railway bridge in the Sydney suburb of Woolloomooloo didn't get the garbage bin they wanted for their empties, instead the bridge and other groups. Half of the murals are permanent and depict the history of Woolloomooloo and Windscale

The United Kingdom's Windscale and Windscale is easily responsible for more than half of the world's most polluting nuclear establishment, according to a report from the Political Ecology Research Group (PERG). PERG, which is based in London, UK, and consists largely of persons with doctorate degrees, has conducted research into a variety of environmental areas.

According to Peter Taylor, author of the report, The UK accounts for at least 95% of all sea-dumped radioactive waste and Windscale is easily responsible for more than half of this.

Over the last 25 years, the plant has released more than 250 kg of plutonium into the Irish Sea. Its closest rival is the French plant at La Hague which averages a yearly discharge of 30 curies compared to Windscale's 1000-1500 curies.

Taylor says Windscale's discharges are particularly disturbing because of the volatility nature of the Irish Sea which stirs up the sediment that the plutonium is supposed to stay buried in, leading to resuspension.


1700 drugs banned

Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury of the People's Health Centre in Bangladesh has accused some of the world's largest drug companies of forming a cartel.

Of the 2300 brand-name medicines sold in Bangladesh, 1700 have been withdrawn from sale and another further 1700 will be withdrawn within the next six months. This has been seen as a direct attack on the multi-national drug companies' aggressive marketing methods.

In January 1982 Chowdhury opened a factory designed to supply 15-50% of the Bangladesh market in 'essential' medicines. This factory, called the Gonoosasthya Pharmaceuti­cals Ltd (GPL), aims to produce for 35-50% less than the prices the multi-national companies charge for equivalent substances, and still make a profit of between 10 and 15%. It will invest half its profit, and spend the rest on medical research especially into the medicinal properties of local herbs.

The factory, called GPL wants to break into the market by supplying government hospitals and clinics. But when the government invited tenders for drugs in 1981 the multi-national companies undercut GPL's bids.

For each drug, there was at least one multi-national tender at a lower price. The new prices were lower than those the companies were previously tendered in 1980. Chowdhury said:

Chowdhury alleges that each multi-national agreed to cut its price on one drug, making a loss in one area, but making a profit on another. GPL out of the market.


Soweto

In memorial notices placed in the Adelaide Advertiser 16 June 1982 to commemorate the massacre of black South Africans at Soweto.

Sirius in Leningrad

A crew member of the Greenpeace campaign vessel the Sirius releases balloon marked with the white dove peace symbol above the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic's port of Leningrad. The Sirius, after a tour of Scandinavian countries, visited Leningrad to protest against USSR nuclear weapons testing.

Operation Homecoming

Operation Homecoming, a native peoples' protest, has been underway since 19 June 1982 on Koombana reservation, part of the Marshall Islands, 4000 km south-west of Hawaii.

The atoll consists of a 2100-sq-km island, largely of persons with doctorate degrees, with some 90 islands. This lagoon is in some way larger than the USA's long-range missile-testing program. It is here where the USA tests the missile. With this test data the USA claims to predict the probability of destroying a target. The more accurate the missile the more likely its possible use for 'first strike'.

The traditional owners of Kwajalein Islands, 280 ha in size, were evicted by the USA in 1959 to Ebev Island, only 65 ha in size. Later the USA army took over the base, claiming more islands. Today the population of Ebev numbers 8000.

Conditions on Ebev are described as shambles. The lack of water and sewage facilities, coupled with massive overcrowding and an inadequate hospital, ensure that disease is hard to control. The contrast with the facilities now existing on Kwajalein Island is dramatic. Residents of Kwajalein are only permitted to go to Ebev to work for AIA. Each night 50 at a time servicing the swimming pools, the country club, and other recreational and health facilities.

Operation Homecoming protests against the latest deal between the USA and the Marshallese government which ignores the plight of Ebev Island. The 'Compact of Free Association' with the USA grants the Marshallese government control of its domestic politics in exchange for a 50-year Kwajalein lease and military dominance of the region.

In August a referendum of some 5000 traditional owners of Kwajalein atoll will decide whether they wish to continue to have their land occupied by the USA nuclear-missile-testing base.
Swedish radar

In a major victory for the Scandinavian peace movement in June 1982, the Swedish High Court of Appeals lifted the sentence of Mark Carter and Lloyd Holloway as editors. The court maintained that some of the information gathered was secret and all should be detrimental to national security if revealed.

Wilkes, protesting against his conviction, has cycled the same route, making observations and was permitted to seek further research, perhaps because of a possible secret link between neutral Sweden and the NATO bloc. Wilkes plans to appeal further to the Swedish Supreme Court.

USS Goldsborough - nuclear threat

The Campaign for a Nuclear-Free Australia (CFAN) met on 23-25 July, 1982 in Canberra to plan national action for the campaign for the next six months. It was agreed to:

- develop an alternative economic and energy strategy for Australia;
- offer assistance to the ACTU to develop educational material and to provide CNFA groups to discuss issues and problems important to trade unions and workers;
- organise a national boycott of British Petroleum products (BP are part-investors in the Roxby uranium mine);
- organise a bicycle ride against the Roxby uranium mine.

The meeting provided an important opportunity for activists to discuss issues and strategies. However, it became clear during the meeting that the lack of structure for the organisation was hindering decision-making. In particular, there needs to be greater awareness of what is possible on a national level in terms of activist organisation and action issues. Problems were recognised and discussed, and efforts are being made to formulate proposals for changes at the next meeting.

CNFA meets

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Transition

After 2 August 1982, the Australian Council of Trade Unions will be located at ACU, 127 Swanton St, Melbourne, Vic 3000. Tel: (03) 47 3966.

The Congress Programme for Peace Committee can be contacted through the convenor: Stephen Bartos, PO Box 1, Canberra City, ACT 2601; Tel: (02) 47 3560.

The Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Australia secretariat has moved to the Greenspace Sydney office (see below).

The Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament has moved to the Fourth Floor, 252 Swanton St, Melbourne, Vic 3000; Tel: (03) 663 3677. Their postal address is GPO Box 114A, Melbourne, Vic 3000.

Friends of the Earth Sydney: Tel: (02) 21 111953; Greenspace, Sydney, Tel: (02) 21 110099, and the Movement Against Uranium Mining New South Wales, Tel: (02) 212 1906, have moved to 787 George St, Sydney, NSW 2000.

The Fund for Animals Ltd has moved to First Floor, 14 Sydney Rd, Northcote, Vic 3070.

The Lismore Environment Centre has moved to First Floor, 18 Keen St, Lismore, NSW 2480.

Tasmanian Wilderness Society has opened an office at 159-169 Hunter St, Hobart, Tas 7000; Tel: (07) 43 57474.

The Environment Centre (Victoria) opens on 30 August 1982, 210 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne, Vic 3000; Tel: (03) 663 1562.

The Environment Centre (Western Australia) is located at 89-91 York St, Perth, W.A. 6000; Tel: (09) 325 7999.

The Environment Centre (Queensland) is located at 12-14 Mount Street, Southport 4122; Tel: (07) 66 32419.

The Environment Centre (South Australia) is located at 5-7 Peacock Street, North Adelaide; Tel: (08) 222 2787.

The Environment Centre (Tasmania) is located at 1-3 O'Connell St, Hobart, Tas 7000; Tel: (07) 43 55454.

The Environment Centre (Northern Territory) is located at 5-7 Workflow Street, Darwin, NT 0800; Tel: (08) 222 2787.

The Environment Centre (Australian Capital Territory) is located at 1-3 O'Connell St, Civic 2601; Tel: (06) 24 3333.

The Environment Centre (Australian Capital) is located at 3-5 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2000; Tel: (02) 333 3333.

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The decision of the July 1982 federal conference of the Australian Labor Party to abandon its previously strong stand on uranium has been widely condemned as an exercise in political expediency. With Bill Hayden flying around the country defending the new policy, debate within the ALP over its future is vigorous. Here Joe Camilleri analyses the text of the new policy and Geoff Roberts puts forward an explanation of why the policy has changed.

The decision of the recent ALP federal conference to abandon its previously strong stand on uranium has been widely condemned as an exercise in political expediency. It has surprised and angered a great many people inside and outside the Labor Party who have come to share a deep concern about the dangers of uranium mining, nuclear power and nuclear war.

The new policy, which was adopted by a vote of 53 to 46, takes the form of a long amendment (20 clauses in all) to the previous policy. The amendment is a confusing and confused document, with the existing safeguards agreements of the current state of the nuclear industry, the uranium mining industry, and so-called safeguards. It is long on rhetoric and short on concrete action. Its only solid commitment is to the Labor government to proceed with the mining and export of uranium.

Why was it necessary, in spite of all the difficulties, to give up the ALP’s one-time strong stand on uranium? Why should we consider the previous position, and the reasons for it, before looking at the new policy?

The new ALP policy proposes to “phase out” the uranium industry (OC). Yet little is said about how this will be done. The whole question of whether or not it is necessary to change policy at all is debated in the amendment. In the view of the authors, the major question here is whether or not the ALP government has committed itself to fulfilling the existing safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). If it has, then the new policy is a watershede. If it has not, then the new policy is just another attempt to weasel out of an international commitment.

The document’s vague concluding commitments (m, 14, 15, 16) would not even permit the government to phase the uranium industry back to its previous commitment. All it says is that the government will “monitor the nuclear activities of the other countries and their propensity to develop cancer cells” (m, 15). This is an absurd argument. If the IAEA cannot do this effectively, then there is no need for us to strike a new bilateral agreement with the IAEA. If the IAEA cannot do this effectively, then the new policy is hardly likely that Australia will be able to do it.

In capitalising to these pressures the new ALP policy proposes to “phase out” the uranium industry (OC). Yet little is said about how this is to be done. The whole question of whether or not it is necessary to change policy at all is debated in the amendment. In the view of the authors, the major question here is whether or not the ALP government has committed itself to fulfilling the existing safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). If it has, then the new policy is a watershede. If it has not, then the new policy is just another attempt to weasel out of an international commitment.

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The Games are a "political extravaganzas" of all Breed settler societies — an event which would not be possible without the support of the white man, as his practices, speaking in the traditional sense, are not allowed in Australia. In this context, it is necessary to consider the history of colonialism and the treatment of indigenous people.

Aboriginal people were rounded up like cattle and shoved onto trains. They were then herded in concentration camps, where they were subjected to forced labor and brutal treatment. The Commonwealth Games Bill indemnifies the police and "other authorities" for any action taken by the indigenous people against the apartheid state. The Games are a stark reminder of the violence of the apartheid state as it nears its end.

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Unions, uranium and you

By Clare Gallagher and Dave Northey

For anti-uranium activists the recent past has been characterized by a series of setbacks. The immediate future is uncertain. Hopefully this uncertainty will not be compounded by promises offered and then ignored to placate the public or to hedge from the inevitable reassessment of current realities and the political implications.

That recent decisions of the ACTU executive, of the ALP and the federal Crimes Acts, give teeth to conglomerations of the unions actively campaigning against uranium, are in a similar fashion. Many other unions, if not the entire union movement, are in a similar situation. We are considering reducing the A and B budgets and increasing the C budget. We have had a significant increase in membership over the past six months, and we feel that this increase is appreciated. At present we would have to assess it as limited. Anti-uranium groups have long recognised the centrality of trade unions in the anti-uranium struggle but have not been able to organise in their existing workplaces.

In calling for a broader union/community alliance to fight uranium mining and export, we must organise in unions and workplaces, support and work with organisations and activists to date. At present however, we would have to assess it as limited. Anti-uranium groups have long recognised the centrality of trade unions in the anti-uranium struggle but have not been able to organise in their existing workplaces.

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The 'boom' is generally thought of as a Western Australian or Queensland phenomenon, where the penetration of multi-national mining companies poses a number of contradictions. The Latrobe Valley is Victoria's equivalent, but there are many differences — it's a long-established community without the isolation of most resource areas although there is also an itinerant construction workforce. There have been attempts to encourage manufacturing industry in the area. This is where women's employment in the Latrobe Valley has traditionally been, with service areas providing the growth in recent years. With the further decline in manufacturing employment and the general monopoly of construction and trades jobs by men, it may have been expected that the service industries provide the best hope for female employment. The influx of workers for the various construction projects has created an increase in jobs in the service sector — shops, eating and drinking establishments, and hotels/motels. This parallels the growth in service sector employment as the main factor in the growth of female workforce participation generally. But just as these jobs, and female employment with them, are increasing, so is the incidence of part-time and casual employment. Most of the growth of female employment in part-time work — technological change and longer trading hours have led to the transformation of retail and hospitality industries into casual employment areas, mainly because this gives the employer the flexibility of using staff at peak times and not having to employ them during less busy times. Clearly the experience of women in this paid workforce is very different from that of men in this development area.
While part-time work does suit many women, particularly mothers of small children, work for women in the resource industry construction is often on a casual basis—basically, they are paid low rates of pay in service industries. That is, low rates of pay are attached to female jobs, whereas the men's jobs are often highly paid.

A considerable public awareness of the high wages paid to construction workers on these projects, the position of women has deteriorated most graphically in the conditions of work and the low status of women directly servicing the resource projects in their canteens. We spoke to women in the Loy Yang construction project canteen and to those employed in the Thompson Tavern, a 'wet' canteen (a kind of pub) available to workers on the Thompson Dam project in the Latrobe Valley, situated in the Board of Works town of Rawson. In both canteens there were most of the women workers.

It is immediately evident that these women do not share the wages and conditions enjoyed by the men on these sites. While the men draw the low award wage, without the various site allowances negotiated for the construction workers and many women work alongside the men on a casual basis—at Loy Yang this means in the same areas generally, although the construction workers do not lose pay for such times when they cannot work.

At Loy Yang the women described the pressure under which they worked, that they never had time to talk to the men because they were there only at peak times. They compared their job with the 'billy boys' who collect the rubbish out there. They didn't have much choice in what they had to do. They were working seven days a week, from day to night, doing much more than the 'billy boys' (there are in fact a few billy boys at Loy Yang) and see the injustice of a wage level of less than half the 'billy boys' by their standards.

In the construction projects in the Latrobe Valley the women are working alongside the men in a similar way. In the Thompson Tavern the women are working alongside the men. In the Thompson Dam the main meeting of women workers voted to support Tavern staff who were proposing to industrial action. The workers were proposing to one another that for that reason women cannot expect equal pay to men. Not surprisingly they were there and had no suggestion that they would receive lower wages than men who have families dependent on them.

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Clearly, there is an established sexual division of labour in the region. There is also a well-established acceptance of who does what and even in the most form of work one accepts this as 'natural'. It is obvious to do so.

This sexual division of labour cannot, however, be thought of as a simple matter of sexist attitudes on the part of men, and consequent discrimination. Overall, sexual division of labour is largely determined by the needs of the workforce. For example, while the women's work is based on the sexual division of some men in the family, and that mutually reinforce one another. On the one hand, because the men's income is seen as essential to the family, it has concerned that there were no jobs for women. By contrast, the women's work is seen as 'dirty, dangerous and heavy'—clearly, not for men.

There was an interesting, and partly inexplicable, difference in attitudes to women in non-traditional jobs on the construction sites between the two groups of women. At the Thompson Dam project, the women emphatically opposed any opposition to their entry into the actual dam site, which is some distance from the town. Although they were aware of the danger, and the jobs were normally done by men, they did not consider this a problem. At the Loy Yang Dam, on the other hand, women's work is generally defined in relation to their children as 'child bearers and nurturers', as supporters and sexual partners of men. Women are prevalent therefore in non-traditional industry, which extend their domestic roles into the industrial area.

For example, the women in the resource development projects are, in the main, the those who have been seen as 'dirty, dangerous and heavy'. They received payment for the time of the stoppage. At time of writing, the Loy Yang canteen workers have put a protest on the State Election Notice Board (SECB) for a reduction in the shift length and the wages in line with rates paid by other construction sites.

Industrial action has also proved effective at the Thompson Tavern where women (and one male bartender) stopped work for four days over a $1 an hour wage parity with the men on the site. An additional anomaly was that the cooks in the Thompson Tavern, who were members of one of the construction unions, received wage rates below the line of rates paid to the construction workers. Whereas the eight Tavern workers, members of the Liquor Trades Union, were paid only the award rate. Eventually negotiations resulted in wage increases amounting to around $60 per week and a reduction in weekly working hours from 40 to 38.

At both sites, what was interesting was the reaction by the construction workers to the service workers taking industrial action. Although there was general support, there was some initial failure to recognize the stoppages as 'real' industrial action, or the women workers' 'sick' workers. Never the less at Loy Yang, the whole site stopped in support of the Thompson Tavern workers. At Loy Yang canteen workers, the Thompson Dam the mass meeting of women workers voted to support Tavern staff to counter industrial action if necessary. The employees of one contractor had stopped in support when the Tavern workers first went on strike.

There were also some hostile reactions. For example, at Loy Yang when women were on strike, it was said there was a good deal of muttering that 'it is the women who should be at home if they shit get more money'. At the Thompson Tavern, the same happened. Some discussion that perhaps the social club should run the Tavern so that club members could run the business after the mine had closed. The cases there was a tendency on the part of the men to regard the women as the support workers, and the withdrawal of the women was to be seen as a poor show, even at a party, at them rather than at a boss.

While the women were seen to keep the facility going, which would be inconceivable in relation to industrial action by any other group of workers.

One factor in the support being forthcoming was that, without exception, the women employed in the Tavern were married to construction workers and, as part of a fairly closed community in a remote area, everyone knows each other. This did create another edge, however, in that there were some murrings such as 'Oh, Joe Bloggs (a union delegate) is pushing this because he wants to get more money for his missus'—a recognition of the reality of the women's situation. Support was to their husbands' generally high wages, and workers (and women workers) that for that reason women cannot expect equal pay to men. Not surprisingly there was no suggestion that they would receive lower wages than men who have families dependent on them.

At Loy Yang, the on the other hand, the women felt very strongly that all jobs should be open to women. Many said that they would take jobs as 'billy girls' if they were available. Examples were given of a few women who were in traditional jobs. Great bursts of hilarity greeted the suggestion that construction jobs might be inappropriate for women because of the dirty conditions. The women pointed to their food-splattered clothes and tellingly stated that they would like to get 'dirty'. Nevertheless, at Loy Yang, it is seen as essential to the family, it has nothing to do with women receiving lower wages than men who have families dependent on them.

So that it cannot be assumed that the sexual division of labour is fixed. Where the work is seen as 'dirty, dangerous and heavy', sexist stereotypes get revised (though not dropped). An excellent example of this accommodation is one where girls moved into a non-traditional job and slowly the job is redefined as 'women's work' because of the tidiness with which the work was done. Women doing the job are said to be by nature good at boring, tidying and traditional work, as well as being tidy.

All the women we spoke to in the Latrobe Valley recognised the grim employment position of women in the area; in both canteens there was intense competition for the few jobs available. In the Thompson Tavern, the women came in at the canteen every day looking for work. In Rawson, the Board of Works town, the women were often turned away from the few available manual jobs. Although the women had qualifications, such as teachers, many found the men in their family, who had found work in the mines, would not support them to go and work in the Valley. For the others, part-time work available in Moe or Morwell was the best they could get.

Perhaps the most critical employment problem of the women is that while the Valley has full adult-male employment is available in the resource sector, the women's wages in line with rates paid by other construction sites.

The sexual division of labour in the region is seen as essential to the family, it has nothing to do with women.
when looking at women's employment in resource-based areas, is to see where
the opportunities are – other than on the sites themselves.

The clothing industry in the Valley employs close to 100% women. It was
set up for decentralisation purposes because of the ready supply of female
labour. Jobs for women have been the consequence. The clothing industry
now subject to rigid structural change, largely because of changes in the inter­
national division of labour. The intro­
duction of new technology is displacing
many people but this has not been the
case in the Valley. In fact questions
about technology were greeted with
laughter and derision – ‘Not for 60
years, and then only second-hand’. The
lack of capital investment has the effect
of enabling companies to open and
close factories to suit seasonal demands.
This has major implications for con­
tinued employment for women in the
area.

In fact, the labour force in the La­
trobe Valley clothing industry has been
long term and relatively stable. The
women work there because they have to
– as they said, ‘We wouldn’t be here if
we didn’t need the money, and we can’t
live without two wages’.

The women we spoke to were very
aware of the sexual divisions in the local
workforce: ‘It’s a man’s world, love. They
can earn high wages and do nothing
while we slave for $100 a week. The
[men] wouldn’t help us in any in­
dustrial campaign as they think we are
not worth it.’

One of the most critical characteris­
tics of the women who work in this
industry is their occupational immobi­
lity. Many clothing workers believe they
could do no other work. These charac­
teristics have a major effect on the
ability of these women to find alternative
employment (or, as the Industries
Assistance Commission put it, adjust to
change). They are also mostly trained
for machining only.

The other critical point about the
women working in this industry in the
Valley, as elsewhere, is that they are not
intermittent workers. The discriminatory
myth is that women work only for pin
money and therefore drop in and out of
the workforce at whim. This concept,
part from reflecting questionable pre­
conceived notions about women's
natural roles, and hence, ‘right’ to work
in the paid workforce, relies heavily on
the ‘reserve army of labour’ thesis, which is quickly becoming redundant
because of a better understanding of
labour market segmentation.

Decreases in female employment is
related to decreases in the areas of
employment which women are segrega­
ted into. This is not clearly recognised
as, for ideological purposes, women are
targeted to return to the home in periods
of economic crisis. Women are also used
as scapegoats for the crisis thus avoiding
a realistic look at the employment
situation.

And the employment situation for
women is not clear cut: female em­
ployment is increasing at the same time
as female unemployment is high and
rising faster. This situation comes
about because the women losing jobs
are in different sectors of the labour
market from those getting jobs. Semi­
skilled and unskilled, and teenage girls
are losing jobs while better educated
and experienced Australian women are
getting them in the service sector —
much of which is part-time. There is
an under-representation of profes­
ional and administrative jobs in the Latrobe
Valley.

Although the focus in this article has been on women in the
paid workforce, it is impossible to
separate this from their domestic
responsibilities.

We expected childcare to be a major
problem as information from the Hun­
ter Valley has shown the enormous
unmet need. However, the women who
we spoke to had found alternative
arrangements. For those working in the
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prime source of childcare. In Rawson,
women who were at home already
looking after children took the children
of working women. This is in stark
contrast to the problems which have
been described for the women in the
Pilbara, where the isolation and the
lack of a support system that either the
extended family or an established
community can provide in the absence
of adequate public childcare is critical.

Because women are the primary
childcarers, shoppers and general nurte­
ers, it is important to understand that
the burden of the reductions in social
expenditure, which are made because of
the enormous shift in expenditure
towards infrastructure, falls mainly on
women. They not only have to live in an
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where there are large numbers of single
men, but also have to bear the burden of
high rents, housing shortages, curtailed
life, no childcare and rising prices.

A study by consultants for the Vic­
torian Public Works Committee’s in­
quiry into the proposed Driffield Power
Station showed that approximately 60% of
future capital works requirements in the
Latrobe Valley will be attributable
to the SECY. The study also showed
that the Shire of Morwell will be unable
to provide services for people attracted
to the area by the Driffield project. This
high expenditure on infrastructure by
government has meant a decline in
spending on health, education, housing
and local government which has a major
impact on women’s lives.

We have to face up to the political
and economic strategy of the govern­
ment and corporations involved in re­
source development. We have also to take
account of the traditional outlook and
practices of workers themselves — both
male and female — and of the public
generally which militate against change.

It is only slowly that consciousness
will change. Trade unionists at all levels
have to develop a view that goes beyond
the hip-pocket and beyond their own
sectional concerns. They have to assert
a say about their jobs and where they
work — taking a comprehensive view
about how things fit together.

None of this will solve the structural
problems in the economy or the patri­
archy, but it will increase the capacity
of people to deal with them.

Antarctica
Getting into hot water

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Chain Reaction

UNPAID WORK

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Pacifc first strike

By Mark Cole

The newly developed Trident is a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) which will play an indispensable role in any USA first strike at the USSR. Trident-I missiles are being backfitted to the Polaris class of ballistic-missile submarines currently patrolling the Pacific Ocean. To date, about eight of these submarines in the Pacific, home ported at Pearl Harbour and using Apra Harbour (Guam) as a forward base.

Trident Ballistic Missile

The fourth element is a ballistic-missile and bomber defence capable of intercepting any surviving USSR missiles and aircraft that is set to be launched in retaliation.

Public statements made by USA Secretary of defence James Schlesinger in 1973 and 1974 suggest that USA military planners have been pursuing a first-strike capability since the early 1970s. This new policy requires nuclear-war fighting strategies (termed counter-force) and the deployment of a new generation of accurate and deliverable nuclear weapons targeted on USSR strategic and communications facilities. Counter-force strategy involves the launching of an accurate, coordinated and comprehensive attack on all USSR strategic and communications facilities, eliminating the possibility of effective retaliation.

Counter-force strategy contrasts with the nuclear-war-terrorizing strategy (countervalue) which prevailed until the late 1960s. Countervalue strategy involved the first priority targeting by each opposing superpower of the major urban and industrial centres. Both sides, in theory, refrained from initiating major attacks because of the certainty of retaliation ending in the Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) of their populations, cities, and economic infrastructure.

In progressing towards a disarming first-strike capability, USA military planners are putting together the technologies which make up the five essential elements to a counter-force strategy. These five elements are outlined below.

The first element is the possession of extremely accurate missiles which can be relied upon to quickly destroy the USSR's missile silos and other land targets such as bomber bases, satellite communications and early warning systems, and the ports where ballistic-missile-loaded submarines are berthed. The USA has already progressed a long way towards achieving these technologies with the development of the M-X and Trident ballistic missiles and short-to-medium range nuclear missiles such as the Cruise and Pershing.

The second element is a space warfare capability to destroy early warning and communications satellites.

The third element is an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) force able to seek out and sink those USSR ballistic-missile launching submarines which are out of port at the time of a first strike. In 1979 the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute published a report which concluded that USSR submarines were at that stage dangerously vulnerable to a USA first strike.

Mark Cole works for International Development Action researching Australian company and military involvement in the Pacific, and is a member of the Nuclear-Free Pacific Committee in Victoria.
The first Trident, USS Ohio, SSBN-726 (lower right), and USS Michigan, SSBN-727 (centre) at the General Dynamics Electric Boat Division, Groton, Connecticut, USA. Note the 24 outer tube doors for the Lockheed C4 Trident 1 missiles.
Penetrating B-52/H-Launch Cruise Missile

In the USAF USA first strike, cruise missiles launched from B-52/H bombers based in the Pacific/Indian Ocean region would have a shorter time to locate and reach urgent targets in the USSR.

B-52/H bombers have access to bases and facilities at Kadena (Okinawa), Clark air force base (Philippines), Andersen air force base in Guam. Cruise missiles are almost certain to be delivered in readiness at Guam and Hawaii.

Kwajalein Atoll Missile Testing Range

The USA Pacific missile-testing range consists of a launch complex at Vandenberg air force base in California, tracking centers on islands in the Pacific, and a target complex at the Kwajalein Atoll in Micronesia. This missile range is of vital importance to the USA's advance towards the first-strike capability. The manoeuvrability of the intercontinental missile (ICM) MARVs is being developed and improvements in pest control are vital for the testing of ballistic-missile defence sensors and weapons, components of a counterforce strategy that will cost four billion dollars.

A USAF B-52 lands in Darwin, possible staging point for the B-52/H-launched cruise missile component of a USAF first-strike capability, a team of specially equipped pines, and Trident submarines, also serves as a port of call and servicing/maintenance complex.

Yet another deadly element of the USAF naval contingent is the array of aircraft carriers patrolling the Pacific. These carriers have a critical role to play in any USA-launched first strike. After SOSUS arrays have detected a submarine, ASW detection is based on two overlapping systems. Sonar arrays (SOSUS) are known to be laid out on the floor of the continental shelf around Diego Garcia, Japan, the Aleutian Islands, and Hawaii. These arrays can detect submarines at distances of up to 1,000 km.

Command, Control, and Intelligence (C3I)

C3I installations in the west Pacific provide lessons in an independent role in any USAF launched first strike. The command and control role in any USAF strategic weapons system is being constructed at Nurrungar, North Australia, and the chances of a computer malfunction or false alarm triggering a nuclear war are increased. The deployment of these ships on the west coast of the USA is particularly critical as the Vietnamese harbours in 1972.

The difficulty for the USSR in launching a missile attack is that 50% of the USA's ballistic missiles would be re-targeted via the shorter times in which the new missiles would be available for launching.

The task of surveillance is to provide communications with USR targets in a first-strike attack. Nuclear warplanes play an important role in relaying information from early-war surveillance sensors (ESR) to that the chances of nuclear holocaust are increased. Counterforce strategy implies a large degree of success in the first strike.

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Back copies:

Twenty-three back copies of Chain Reaction, all those published from Autumn 1976 (except vol 3, no 3, of which we will supply a reprint of the article on page 123 instead) are available for $30. Add another $2 to include this edition (no 29). All post free.

Chain Reaction Position Vacant

Editor/s

Applications/proposals are invited for the position of Editor/s of Chain Reaction, the national magazine of Friends of the Earth Australia. (Since May there have been three people working as Editors.) The magazine is currently published quarterly, goes to members of Friends of the Earth in Australia, other subscribers (including schools, unions, community groups, libraries and individuals) and is on sale at community centres and various retail outlets. We are planning for the magazine to be published six times a year a year commencing in 1983.

Chain Reaction covers a wide range of issues emphasising the politics of the environment, energy and resources.

The editors currently work with collaborating unions in Melbourne and Sydney, FOE, and other community groups around Australia. The magazine has been in publication since it was established in 1975.

The editors responsibilities include ensuring continued operation of the collective, encouraging people to work on the magazine, and, with the collective, determining content, organising production, managing the finances, distribution, and promotion of the magazine.

Applicants may be required to attend an interview in late January 1983 at a Friend of the Earth Australia meeting near Adelaide.

Remuneration - negotiable.

The neue Editor/s will take office after a 6 month introductory period on 1 March 1983.

Applications are welcome to discuss the magazine and obtain further information from FOE, 37 Swanston Street, Melbourne, 3000.

Applications close on 14 January, 1983.

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NATIONAL CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The World Conservation Strategy A Path for the Future

by Alistair Machin

In May 1982, the Department of Home Affairs and Environment released a discussion paper Towards a National Conservation Strategy, which is the largest step so far in its development of a national conservation strategy.

As the discussion paper points out, Australia has lost two-thirds of its forests, one of the most highly urbanised countries in the world, and has a legacy of extinct and endangered wildlife after only 200 years of white settlement. Good agricultural land is a scarce resource and soil degradation is 'so serious a problem that it poses a major threat to this essential life-support system'.

The concern that living resources which are essential for human survival are increasingly being destroyed or depleted led, in 1980, to the launching of the World Conservation Strategy (WCS). Mostafa Elba, the director of the Conservation Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), said that its main thrust is to prevent the loss of species as a means for sustained development. He said that the future would be decided by how serious a discussion can take place about conservation of living resources for sustainable use, there needs to be a major re-examination of our development paths.

The strategy has the full endorsement of the biosphere so that it may yield the greatest possible benefits for present and future generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations.

Thus, according to those working on the paper, 'development' aims to achieve human goals largely through use of the biosphere, 'conservation' aims to safeguard the use of the biosphere, and, 'sustainable development' seeks to ensure that both can continue.

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fluidised bed combustion which unlike pulsed combustion can also be used to develop an electrical generating process from renewable sources (e.g. photovoltaic cells using solar energy) may be more energy efficient, but financially prohibitive.

The design of many consumer products, in particular the motor car, which have been a source of considerable profits to their producers, have been built in obscurity that has served to sustain a continuing demand for them. Yet they are extremely wasteful of the raw materials needed for their creation and of the energy needed to power them.

Thus, for me, the major limitation to the NCSA seems to be a conceptual one: that the obstacles which are identified as critical are in fact only of secondary importance. The reason for the inability of conservation and development to integrate is much more fundamental. The system whose internal logic and practice is inherently wasteful is doomed to failure, in the same way and for the same reason that the Green Revolution of the 1960s was a miserable failure for the hungry of the Third World. The failure to address the fundamental issue—the direction and purpose of development and the distribution of economic and political power which characterises it—is the major shortcoming of the NCSA. It insists that conservationists accommodate themselves to a happy compromise with developers within the narrowly defined parameters of the prevailing economic status quo.

It should be understood, in case I am taken to be saying something that I am not, that this is not an argument for saying there can never be any grounds for a marriage between conservation and development. Indeed there must be, but the starting point for any such negotiations comes after the redefinition of development priorities and the values and assumptions which serve them. Barry Commoner expresses the point perfectly in his book The Poverty of Power. He argues that the world there are two complex interactions among three basic systems—the ecosystem, the production system and the economic system—that together with the social or political order govern all human activity. The ecosystem provides all the resources which support human life and activity. The production system transforms this wealth into earnings, profit, savings etc. Thus, he says:

logically the economic system ought to conform to the requirements of the production system, and the production system to the requirements of the ecosystem. The growing influence should flow from the ecosystem through the production system to the economic system. In actual fact the relationships among the three systems are the other way around... thiswhat concerns us is not a lack of separate causes but a single basic defect—fault that lies deep in the design of modern society.

For those who will charge that my arguments are 'naive', 'unpractical' and 'ideological' since we have to work in the real world and social-ecologism is not about to appear around the corner, let us briefly consider some practical reasons for submitting the NCSA to a major shortcoming.

As the crisis of western capitalism deepens and the present recession rumbles hardly close to the edge of a new depression, the response of the private sector—what the NCSA euphemistically call the development practitioners—has been to rationalise its production. Among the first costs to be thrown out will be pollution abatement technology and environmental protection measures.

The role of the state in such crises is typically to minimise the effect of any policies which might constrain the opportunities for profitable activity. Environmental protection legislation, which imposes costly delays or adds significantly to the expenses of establishing new projects, is rarely applied. Enforcement of pollution violation laws are overlooked or inadequately funded and in some cases the legislation is amended and modified.

The Fraser government has also shown its willingness to create favourable conditions for the pursuit of profit by shifting a larger proportion of its revenue away from social services programs towards subsidies for capital. Such a policy has meant that the financial commitment of the government to its environmental responsibilities has fallen, most notably the cut in funding available to conservation organisations. The Environment Department has been shuffled and destabilised, combined at different times with Housing, Science and Home Affairs, and is presently the target of a major public relations campaign, absorbing less than one-quarter of the 1975-76 environment allocation in dollar terms.

In the light of this it is not surprising to encounter widespread suspicion of the government's motives in promoting the NCSA. It is not justifiable in any view to claim that the Fraser government sees the NCSA as an important public relations exercise in which it can give the appearance of acting with purpose on its environmental responsibilities. This of course is not to suggest that there is a deliberate conspiratorial effort on the part of the public servants charged with putting this strategy together, to improperly dupe the environmental community. Indeed I am sure their commitment to its principles is genuine and they will be acting in earnest to achieve its effective implementation, despite its severe shortcomings.

Instead I am arguing that the environmental community should wary of the literature which promotes the NCSA as a workable plan, for reasons that are structural, political and ideological in nature.

Individuals and groups should study and comment (by 15 September 1982) on the paper from which a draft strategy will be prepared for discussion at a national conference in February 1983. The document to emerge from the conference will contain recommendations to government for a National Conservation Strategy for Australia (NCSA), and will be considered by the commonwealth, state and Northern Territory governments for approval and acceptance.
More than 2500 people live within the proposed flood zone - growing rice mostly Malays, living in fourteen kampons upstream of the proposed dam. More than 2500 people, who will have to be relocated. There are some 2500 people, mostly Malays, living in fourteen kampons upstream of the proposed dam. Life for these people involves working paddies and rubber plantations, looking after buffaloes and goats, and catching fish from the river. There is also some gathering of forest produce such as rattan and galah. There is no electricity and no piped water. A measure of wealth is the ownership of buffaloes, which graze along the river banks. A large animal, when sold at the market in Kuala Tembeling, may fetch as much as 1000 ringgit. Fishing is something available to all, and the river thus provides most of the protein in the balanced diet of kampung dwellers. A few hundred Orang Aborigi (aborigines), the Bateq Negrito of the Ulu Tembeling (upper Tembeling), will also be displaced. The Orang Aborigi have lived in this region for perhaps 5000 years as a hunter-and-gather people. Little is known of their origins. The majority of those who have been asked have said they are descendants of the Sultan of Kedah.

The Taman Negara National Park was established in 1972 to preserve the country's last large area of untouched tropical rainforest. The proposal to build a dam in the park, which is situated in the southern part of the country, has triggered a debate about the potential impact of such a project. The park covers an area of approximately 4343 square kilometres and is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species. It is also considered a critical habitat for several endangered species, including the Sumatran rhino, which is one of the most endangered species in the world. The proposal to build the dam in the park has been met with strong opposition from environmentalists and local communities who have expressed concern over the potential impact on the park's ecosystem.

The Orang Aborigi have lived in the area for over 5000 years, and any displacement of their communities could have significant cultural and social implications. There are concerns about the potential loss of traditional knowledge and language, as well as the impact on the livelihoods of these communities. The Malaysian government has stated that it will work to relocate the Orang Aborigi to new areas, but there are questions about the adequacy and sustainability of these efforts.

The Taman Negara National Park is considered one of the most important biologically diverse areas in the world. It is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, including many that are endangered. The park is also considered a critical habitat for several endangered species, including the Sumatran rhino, which is one of the most endangered species in the world. The proposal to build the dam in the park has been met with strong opposition from environmentalists and local communities who have expressed concern over the potential impact on the park's ecosystem.

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The economic accommodation and employment. Because of this, much of the script be eligible for employment, she requires about the film, is that, except for the it is now compulsory viewing for all with the women's own experiences. This is of course nonsense. We rounded up the to look after their and we were responsible for their well-being, to the film. The idea that it is feasible to fight and survive a 'limited' nuclear war which the USSR and USA exchange conventional wisdom of the USA's strategic targeting of civilian centres. Systematically analysing all relevant claims that economic cost accounting of coastal ecological problems which end far beyond the rescue of a single breeding population. Endangered species, they suggest, may play their most important role in attracting attention to and psychological impacts of even the. One of the accounts which is typical of those running counter to the official line is that of Patrick Connolly, a Perth businessman who had served with the British Air Force at Maralinga. He recalls Aboriginals wandering unscathed on the test site: There was nothing to stop them, the signs were useless. During the two-and-half years I was there I would have personally seen the best part of 400 or so ... In some cases we would run a geiger counter over them, in other cases not. We just weren't interested in them because we didn't understand the serious of the situation until some years later. Connolly also recalled, with horror, revisiting the small town of Yalata near Maralinga in 1980. He was reluctant to talk about this because Commonwealth police and medical teams were investigating the area, but he said that he saw as evidence of previous radiation, blind and littleness; that is, displaying symptoms of radiation-connected sickness. The local government official denied Connolly's story. The idea that it is feasible to fight and survive a 'limited' nuclear war which the UK and USA exchange 'counterforces' strikes aimed only at aborting an attack without incurring unacceptable civilian casualties, and with no effect on economic - has now become the common understanding of nuclear war. Most media coverage and political leadership have been provided in a haphazard manner, that large numbers went walkabout again. Even a limited nuclear attack would lead to the very escalation which the leading to the very escalation which the lead to the very escalation which the would critically disrupt the whole economy of the country and create disequilibrium that would result in an immediate economy of the country and create disequilibrium that would result in an immediate
systems, ecosystems, habitat, wildlife species and population survival from the market system.

But this is the single disagreement I have with the most useful conservation book I have read for years. Milo Dunphy


Those concerned about the environmental degradation which has accompanied the rise of western civilisation often put a lot of the blame on our Judeo-Christian values and our scientific outlook. The authors of this book do not think that religion and science have been entirely blameless. They believe that recent developments in science, and a Christian point of view, properly understood, can encourage the development of an ecological and social consciousness. They call for a change in the world view and in the inner human liberation, and argue that these things go together.

The world picture which Birch and Cobb present rests on developments in biology which they claim undermine the mechanistic view of the world as machine. From the level of atomic structure up, organisms and indeed non-living things are not independent, self-contained mechanisms, but depend essentially on their relationships with other things. For example, the way protein synthesis takes place in a cell depends on the environment of the cell, and the environment of the cell depends at each stage by environmental factors. This integration of the elements of life with the environment suggests another level by the integration of living and thinking things in an ecological system. Once we realise that all things are 'we', we will find more difficult to see the humans species or ourselves as separate and self-contained. We, too, are part of each other and our relations with each other and our relations with our environment.

Birch and Cobb go on to argue that a proper appreciation of these interrelations has moral and social implications. It teaches us a respect for life in all its forms, a willingness to attempt to liberate people from unjust and oppressive situations, a search for a 'just and sustainable world'.

The authors' world view is not logically consistent and the book does not consistently make this point, but the social changes that have come about in the past few years suggest that this is what the authors are trying to do.


The value of this book lies in its ability to make people think, to create a picture from what is used to be scattered pieces of information. Henry Reynolds has managed to unchain, both intellectually and emotionally, historians' accounts from non-Aboriginal sources. He has created an exciting yet tragic picture of our history with little attention paid to the Aborigine's own concept of their history, which has only been a quaint archaic remnant to our society.

Reynolds has refused to accept that there was simply a meeting and subsequently a conflict between two cultures. He has clearly demonstrated the significance that characterisation of the Aboriginal people, in terms of the reality of relationships and experiences.

What was it like really when an Aboriginal first saw a European, the colour of the skin, the manners, the reason for one to thrust into the hands of the youngest men?

What control and limitations were wagons made of the European world?
...from page 3

community groups - almost as an extension of women's history as charity workers. 

But unfortunately, the presence of equal or greater numbers of women in an organisation does not in itself mean an end to sexist ideology. Still... 

Having more women than men at a meeting doesn't necessarily mean that women will speak for as long as men do, nor ensure that women have equal decision-making power with men. We are all brought up to believe that men are natural leaders and thus accept their proposals more readily.

Having more women than men in an organisation doesn't mean that women will be proportionately represented at the top. There is a tendency for men to assume positions of power regardless. 

Having more women than men in an organisation doesn't mean that, for instance, it won't still be a man who is in the media representative - using a press release typed by a woman.

To understand the oppression of women, the notion that women are second class citizens is not an admission of weakness but of sex. Likewise, it is not a sign of individual failure for all those of us who are articulate, committed feminists to admit that sometimes we slip back into the old ideas. 

Sexism is hard to overcome. We can't do it alone, we can't do it without the concurrent effort to remove oppression on all fronts. 

Men's Liberation, for want of a better label, has yet to go through its first flush. No wonder radical feminists have chosen to adopt their own self-determined priorities.

...from page 45

Childcare, the empowerment of women, the need for equal access to the workplace, the need for respect in a woman's relationship - these are the issues that preoccupy women when they meet.

Honeymoon views

*In December 1981 the first Honeymoon views were published in the Adelaide newsletter Chain Reaction. The article described the views of four members of the Chain Reaction team as they travelled through Western Germany during the West German Ardelt meeting.*

**Karen Kaye**

Northcote, Vic

Honeymoon views

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**Casey Miller and Kate Swift**

*Casey Miller and Kate Swift put a clear and persuasive case for a woman's role in the anti-nuclear movement. They argue that Labour Party and Green parties are not progressive forces and that the women's movement is.*


If you want to contact almost any organisation, government or non-governmental group in Australia this book is essential. It gives the name, address, contact number, a list of members, name of journal and areas of interest of over 800 organisations. The information is indexed and clearly presented, and the book has both the organisation's name and the subject index.

The unfortunate aspect of it is that the book is not cheap as it costs $30 or 400 copies can hardly be provided for information for a group. I hope many more groups will participate in the next edition. Meanwhile this remains a useful publication from ACF.

Lilas Houghay
The Queensland Conservation Council Environment Outlet Bookshop.

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The Chain Reaction Sydney Collective has been going for about eight months. We need more people. The work can be as little or as much as you want; it’s stimulating and satisfying; a great way to use or learn skills. Work to be done ranges from that of a reviews editor here in Sydney, working on Action Guide and Earth News, producing a radio ad, laying out pages of Chain Reaction in Sydney, encouraging groups to use Chain Reaction, supplying and finding photos and other graphics, researching articles, mailing out the magazine quarterly to Friends of the Earth members, working on sales in shops and . . . the things to do are endless.

To have the Sydney collective actively working on and through the magazine we need people power . . . that’s where you come in. If you’re interested ring and discuss your involvement with Trish Luker or Jenny Quealy on (02) 211 3953. (Leave a message if we’re not in.)

Come on, give us a call.