Europe: cruising into crisis
BACK COPIES

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MILITARISM, SOCIALISM AND WORLD PEACE

Interview with Dan Smith

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Interview with Dan Smith

REACTIONS — EXILES FROM THE CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Interview with Maureen Magee

"Our sensitivity to ordinary household objects may seem bizarre. Living with severe allergies.

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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 first edition for 1984 will be published in mid-February. Deadline for feature articles is 6 January.
Malaysia

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (Friends of the Earth Malaysia) held its first regional environment seminar in Penang in October 1983. Delegates from environment and community groups in South East Asia and the Pacific met for four days of discussion on the problems of development, environment and natural resources in Asia.

The seminar was organized in response to the disastrous effects of development throughout the region. Countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia face pollution of their air, water and land, rapid deforestation, depletion of non-renewable resources, soil erosion, and nuclear and toxic waste dumping. Add to this the population drain from rural areas to urban centres, the growth of quarter slums and the slow dying of traditional practices, lifestyles and cultures.

In draft form the seminar resolutions call for:
- Action to halt deforestation, industrial pollution and depletion of mineral, energy and marine resources
- Suitable working conditions for employees in hazardous occupations, in particular squatter slums and the slow dying of culture.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia will act as the focus for a regional network to be formed from groups throughout the region. These task force units will exchange information and work to solve particular environmental problems anywhere in the region. These task force units could act as environmental troubleshooters focusing on problems like toxic waste disposal.

Damas Velkov

Dieback

Friends of the Earth are working on dieback disease in eucalypts in the New England area of New South Wales. Their program of replanting areas affected by dieback will first establish which sites are suitable. Local farmers will be asked to nominated local schools which may be interested in planting. The whole exercise should provide more support for FOE's activities especially as a paper mill is proposed for the Armidale region.

The campaign aims to promote community awareness in relation to the serious dieback problem. Prior to the actual planting program, to begin in early next year, various clinics are planned to encourage public participation. These include bush dances, seed-collecting days and potting days.

Action: For further information, contact:
Abel Whittam, Friends of the Earth, 27 Lamont Street, Armidale, NSW 2350.

Chain Reaction

Seminar delegates on a field trip around Penang. In the distance a new movement to Malaysia's development.

Frank Graham

Campus Health and Safety

This letter has been edited for space.

In response to "Environment Education" in Chain Reaction 33 on environmental health courses at universities, I would like to bring to your attention a current problem which has faced the campus of the University of Sydney for some time.

It seems that universities which teach environmental health/occupational courses close their eyes to the problems within their own campuses. The University of Sydney is probably best described by the overall lack of attention that, for example, the University of Sydney has given to this area.

For many years the University of Sydney has taken an active approach to problems of staff and student safety and health on campus. It is infuriating to think that during the prosperous years of the 60s and early 70s more money was not allocated to updating old buildings, providing adequate training and education on health and safety, and raising general awareness of health and safety issues.

A recent exercise of adequate training and education on safe working procedures focused on problems like toxic waste disposal.

Contact: Sahabat Alam Malaysia can be contacted at 37, Loving Birch, Penang, Malaysia. Copies of their latest report, The State of the Malaysian Environment 1983-84, are available for AUS4.00 each plus postage payable by bankdraft.

Friends of the Earth groups

AUCKLAND: 165 Nelson St, Auckland, New Zealand
BLAINE: PO Box 697, South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101
CANBERRA: PO Box 1754, Canberra City, ACT 2601, Northbourne, Lyneham, ACT 2628
BRISBANE: PO Box 380, South Brisbane, Queensland, 4101
CRAWLEY: PO Box 943, Crawley, Western Australia, 6009
DARWIN: PO Box 2120, Darwin, NT 5794
DUNDEE: 313 South Terrace, Dunedin, New Zealand
HOBART: 102 Bathurst St, Hobart, Tas 7000
MELBOURNE: 14 Mount Alexander Road, Footscray, Melbourne, Victoria 3011
NEWCASTLE: PO Box 169, Newtown, NSW 2307
NEWRA: 608 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne, Victoria 3000
SYDNEY: Floor 2, 787 George St, Sydney, NSW 2000
THIEBERGER,
MONASH UNIVERSITY Community Research Action Centre, Monash University, Clayton, Vic 3168
NEWCASTLE: PO Box 169, Newtown, NSW 2307
THIEBERGER,
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND, Armidale, NSW Thieberger,
THIEBERGER,
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FOE groups

Malaysia

Dieback

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Chain Reaction
Although this may be a gross oversimplification of the situation, it does help to give some perspective to the numbers involved.

4 Chain Reaction

Deep Ecology

Deep Ecology is not a subject that may be confused with environmentalism, nor does it lie within any field of educational activity. Its kernel is the metaphorical questioning of the way we, as human beings relate to Earth, to science and to each other. In the context of ecological issues, I suggest Accidents Will Happen by the Environmental Action Foundation (Harper & Row, 1978) and Environmental Action not a kilogram of plutonium absorbed or transferred to the emissions from existing power stations to burning coal in furnaces. The cost of removing sulphur compounds is to adopt an appalling is to build a store where it can be kept for the last hundred years?

Life be in it!

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Clyde Holding, has announced a federal inquiry into the operations of the James Hardie asbestos mine at Barrydoll near Grafton in northern New South Wales. The mine was in operation between 1944 and 1979. Most of the workers came from the Bundjalung Aboriginal community near the mine. The Aboriginal Legal Service will testify that 70 of the 20,000 workers have died from asbestos related diseases. The legal service says that the company knew of the dangers of asbestos over 15 years ago, but adequate steps were not taken to protect the workers or their families. The concentration of asbestos workers was said to have sometimes reached 500 workers working side by side with the accepted safe level of 4 fibres per millilitre of air.

Uranium Coalition

On Monday 7 October 1983, the federal government caved in on its policy's pressure to phase out the mining of uranium in Australia and gave the go ahead for the giant Roxby Downs project and for Areva, a French uranium mining company, to phase out the mining of uranium in Australia. The uranium mining industry is declining, and the government has shown its preference for environmental, safety and health considerations over economic, political and other priorities.

The decision to mine and export uranium, if allowed to stand, will have implications for the environmental movement and for the health of the people who will be affected by the mining.

If the decision to mine and export uranium is allowed to stand, the government will be contributing to a new wave of global nuclear power. The very few post-war nuclear power stations that are operating have been abandoned because of the high cost and the high risk of accidents. The nuclear power industry is in decline, and the government's decision to mine and export uranium will only serve to fragment the nuclear power industry and to undermine the credibility of the government's decision.

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**Anti-apartheid campaign**

The Campaign Against Racial Exploitation (CARE) has launched a national campaign to publicise the activities of South African mining and other development companies in South Africa.

CARE has identified eleven points which are to be the focus of the largest campaign against South African mining and other development companies in South Africa. These points are:

- reduce the level of diplomatic representation between Australia and South Africa;
- stop the distribution of racist propaganda to schools and universities in South Africa;
- provide funding for current and upcoming anti-apartheid education campaigns and to support the study of CARE in Africa;
- stop arbitrary and illegal deportations and repatriations of refugees from South Africa;
- provide funding for exile anti-apartheid organizations in South Africa;
- stop the supply of arms and equipment to South Africa;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement;
- stop the supply of goods and services to South Africa;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement.

CARE has also identified the following points which are to be the focus of the largest campaign against South African mining and other development companies in South Africa:

- reduce the level of diplomatic representation between Australia and South Africa;
- stop the distribution of racist propaganda to schools and universities in South Africa;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement;
- stop the supply of arms and equipment to South Africa;
- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement;
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- provide funding for the South African anti-apartheid movement.

**USA troops invade Grenada**

USA troops invaded Grenada on the morning of Tuesday, 25 October 1983, in the context of restoring democracy and freedom to the new independent country. The invasion was part of a larger operation involving the USA and other countries, including South Africa and Brazil.

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Summar at Rodger River

Not for woodchips this time - but still the forests of East Gippsland in Victoria are falling. Mismanagement and a policy of 'taking the best and burning the rest' have meant that mills in the region have cut out their allocations and are looking for new forests. The timber industry, in its quest for every big tree in the state, will bring loggers to the Rodger River, in the isolated hills north of Orbost, this summer (1983-84).

The forests of the Rodger basin are wild and untouched. They are a living contradiction to claims that there is no forest wilderness left in Victoria. To the visitor there is an immediate feeling that here is something quite distinct from the 'managed' forests of the rest of the state. Here are huge trees of singular character, rainforest gullies, splashes of red waratah, echoes of birdsong - everywhere diversity and beauty.

The Forests Commission of Victoria (FCV) has been slowly preparing for an assault on the Rodger River. In July this year (1983) the $80 000 Rodger River Kit was released. It was heralded as a new approach by the FCV, which offered the public an opportunity to be involved in land use decisions, taking environmental factors into account. The kit contains the results of a brief biological survey, a 'forest management plan' and a 'savaglog harvest proposal' for the Rodger River. One aim of the kit is to show those areas that will not be included. A quick glance at the map in the kit shows that the whole area comes under 'areas planned for harvesting'. A small area on the map is given the dubious protection of 'decision deferred for three years pending further investigation'.

This summer it is planned to build the network of roads needed for future logging and to cut in several locations scattered throughout the block. One site to be cut this year is a unique stand of 600-year-old mountain ash, a stand which has regenerated in a way that contradicts the theory propagated by the timber industry that ash needs large-scale clearfelling and burning to encourage regrowth.

There is only one choice that can be made about these forests: either they remain wilderness or they become production forest. You can't do both.

The Minister for Forests, Rod MacKenzie, will make a decision on the Rodger River in December 1983. He is genuinely afraid for jobs in the timber industry that ash trees make suitable timber. If he continues with the FCV's plan, the Minister will have to act.Just for the record...
**Water is life.**

Pure water. It's very easy to take for granted. You can turn on a tap and it's there - for most of us, a bountiful supply - but for many, just obtaining access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the development of irrigation for crops and livestock is an endless supply.

And often, this water proves a source of disease and ill health. It has been estimated that water-related diseases alone claim as many as 25 million lives each year. This year's Christmas Bowl Appeal will provide funds for drought-relief, the supply of safe drinking water and sanitation, and the development of irrigation for crops and livestock.

This Christmas we invite you to give water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, and hope to those who are poor and oppressed.

---

**Have a wild Christmas**

The Tasmanian Wilderness Calendar is now available for $6.95.

We also have a new range of books, posters, T-shirts, cards and rafting gear.

Support The Wilderness Society.

Shop 8, 399 Lonsdale St, Melbourne. Ph: 67 5884

(Exhibit is Hamilton St)

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**Subscribers**

if you have recently
go to the doctor have illnesses totally unrelated to allergy. They see things and feel really ill and they've got headaches or muscle pain and aches and sometimes arthritic, and swells. They've got all the time and they've got all the physical things going wrong as well. Well, most people just don't know how to deal with the sick people who are just partly allergic but they're going to the doctor with no food and was surviving on a food substitute drug. She couldn't walk and her immune systems have begun to react to something about us. This Christmas we invite you to give water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, and hope to those who are poor and oppressed.

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**Reactions - exiles from the chemical society**

Few people understand the seriousness of severe allergy illnesses. The conservative medical profession generally are ignorant of it or treat it unsympathetically. Yet some researchers estimate that up to 80% of all people are affected by allergy disease in some way.

Linnell Secomb and Mark Cole, from Chain Reaction, talked to Maureen Magee and her daughter Jacinta, both of whom suffer from severe allergies, about their illnesses and how they have affected their lives.

The first time I saw Maureen I was helping her family move house from Moss Vale to Appin, 50 km inland from Wollongong in New South Wales. Their new home was an isolated old farm house, on top of a windy hill, surrounded by cleared farm land and patches of scrub. It was night, cold and raining, when Maureen and her kids arrived. It was clear that they were exhausted from a car journey of no more than an hour. They went straight into the house but within a few minutes had to all pile back into the car and be driven away down the hill with all the windows wound up. I hadn't noticed, but upstairs on the next hill someone was burning off cleared trees, and the wood smoke had nearly caused Maureen and Jacinta to collapse.

Before Mark and I went to interview Maureen she asked us to wash ourselves and our hair thoroughly in Sunlight laundry soap (the only brand she and Jacinta aren't allergic to) and to wash out our clothes four to five times in plain water to get rid of the detergent in them. If we had been wearing make-up, deodorant, hair spray, aftershave or perfume there would have been major problems as these linger in clothing for up to five years. She asked us to make sure we drew all the way with the windows wound up to avoid petrol fumes and not to stop at a petrol station on the way. In the end, because we hadn't had time to wash out our clothes, we borrowed some of Maureen's clothes and wore them while we were with her. Despite all this Maureen still began to react to something about us. All these people have allergies to foods and some, like us, have allergic reactions to chemicals and pollutants in the home and in the atmosphere. In these people, at some point, their immune systems have begun to react with increased sensitivity. And it seems to be caused by over-exposure to particular foods or chemicals over a period of time.

Linnell: How many people would be allergic to foods and some, like us, have allergic reactions to chemicals and pollutants in the home and in the atmosphere. In these people, at some point, their immune systems have begun to react with increased sensitivity. And it seems to be caused by over-exposure to particular foods or chemicals over a period of time.

Mark and I went to interview Maureen on the extreme end of the continuum. There's a huge middle ground of ordinary people who have poor health and don't know that it is caused by food and inhalant sensitivity; their doctors don't know how to diagnose that. There's an enormous number of people who have unspecific illnesses that doctors label as psychosomatic. They feel really ill and they've got headaches or muscle pain and aches and sometimes arthritis, and with no swelling. They're tired all the time and they've got various disturbances and emotional disturbances as well. All these people have allergies to foods and some, like us, have allergic reactions to chemicals and pollutants in the home and in the atmosphere. In these people, at some point, their immune systems have begun to react with increased sensitivity. And it seems to be caused by over-exposure to particular foods or chemicals over a period of time.
about all this and a lot of people, particularly women, are impressed upon as being highly sensitive, both physically and mentally. Medical tests are conducted to determine the cause of these symptoms. However, the tests are not always conclusive, and some people may not show any abnormalities on the physical tests. This can make it difficult to determine the cause of their symptoms, and may lead to a delay in diagnosis and treatment.

When people are tested they often get a real sense of relief, knowing that they have a diagnosis to work with. However, they may also experience feelings of fear, anxiety, and depression. These feelings can be intensified by the stress of dealing with the medical system and the uncertainty of the diagnosis.

There are physical reactions and psychological reactions. Physical reactions can include rashes, hives, breathlessness, and abdominal pain. Psychological reactions can include anxiety, depression, and panic attacks. These reactions can be triggered by a variety of factors, including stress, emotionally charged events, and physical exercise.

Rachael mentioned that she had been dealing with these symptoms for several years. She had tried various treatments, including medications and counseling, but nothing seemed to work. She was feeling overwhelmed and was considering giving up on the situation.

Rachael: I've been dealing with these symptoms for a long time, and it's been really difficult for me. I've tried so many different things, but nothing seems to work.

It's common for people with these symptoms to feel isolated and alone. They may feel like no one understands what they are going through. This can lead to feelings of frustration and anger. It's important to remember that these symptoms are real, and that there are resources available to help people manage them.

Finally, Rachael mentioned that she had recently been referred to a psychologist. She was hopeful that the psychologist would be able to help her understand her symptoms and find effective treatment. She was grateful for the support she had received from her friends and family, and was determined to find a way to manage her symptoms.

In conclusion, the symptoms that people experience with food allergies can be both physical and psychological. It is important to seek out resources and support to help manage these symptoms. With the right treatment, people can learn to live with their symptoms and find a sense of relief.
I used to just thought wasn’t an adequate diet but killed me. They started testing me on for weeks before that. The fast nearly for unusual and rare foods. In the end eat. So then they really started looking it is possible, I assure you. I booked into I’d been eating just teaspoons of food they couldn’t find anything that I could any reaction, to see if I could go back to work. Well I just fell unconscious. They tested me for plastic and I couldn’t work. Well I just fell unconscious. Anyway she sent me the recipes and a Mark So how did things go after you\ncouldn’t work. Well I just fell unconscious. Anyway she sent me the recipes and a Mark So how did things go after you\nI mean fast. I’m massively allergic to print and the bookcovers. Oh and the television was in the same
room as me as well. And the baby had been looked after by friends and when she came back all her clothes had detergents through them – I used to just about collapse going through her clothes. I was getting so thin and I was reacting to everything. I rang Dr Little and told him. Anyway Dr Little rang America and spoke to Dr Rea, who’s an expert in clinical ecology, and he said the only thing to do was to go on this drug called Vivonex which is a high protein food substitute. The problem was that we were living on unemployment benefits and it costs $30 a day. Actually the first problem was oh taming the damn stuff – we couldn’t get it anywhere.

Finally in mid-November, things were so bad that we packed up every
body in the car, we packed all our food and our Perrier, and our babies, and nappies and clothes, and set off. Peter said he thought we were really going to die if we didn’t and looking back we really were very sick. I was past making a judgement then and I just went be cause he said so. We went everywhere looking for a place where we could live. We tried a commune that I knew about way up in the hills but the water supply had dried out in the drought and had left. Jacinta We lived in a tent and campus out in the open. We lived in a pigsty.

Maureen Lots of people were helping us look for somewhere. We had to find a place that was old enough, cheap enough and away from other people because if someone started a lawnmower we two would just be finished. But I remember we went down a river bank and Peter went to sort of half carry me down and it’s alright I can walk by myself. I ran up and he nearly fell over. We were feeling really well then. We’d done the right thing because I’d been in a wheelchair not long before.

People helped us so much. About forty women from parent’s centre and mothers’ groups had collected breast milk for Rosa because I wasn’t able to nurse her any more because breast feeding made me worse. That really helped her a lot because she was allergic to cows’ milk. I was really touched by all those women being so really really they’re probably just the sort of women who’d say ‘Oh I don’t believe in women’s liberation’. I was living in an old farm cottage near Moss Vale for a while but it got so cold in water and we didn’t have any heating except a wood stove, and both of us are allergic to wood smoke. And then it kept flooding and our clothes were wet, and we were filthy and everything stuck. Really it was as rough as guts living there. And then finally we found this place which still has lots of problems but it’s better.

Linnell So how are things now?

Maureen Well, we’re obviously terribly dependent and need a terrible lot of things looking after. That’s terribly frustrating when you’ve been an independent person. That’s what I really can’t stand, that part of being allergic.

But the other thing that really gets me is that ordinary people have no way of knowing how they pollute their homes. You walk into a furniture shop and you choose something you can afford that you like. You have no idea that the television’s made of chipboard that heats up and outgases formaldehyde fumes into your home. And your carpet, if it’s wool, has been moth-proofed and that’s outgassing into the home, and if it’s synthetic the glue that it’s stuck with outgases formaldehyde, and both have a rubber under­lay that’s outgassing. Well an enormous number of people are at home all day and they turn on a heater all winter and as you heat it it gets even worse. There’s all the plastic in your house – plastic insulation in your heater, in your electric blanket. And the rubber, particularly the foam rubber, that’s in everybody’s lounge is a holistically inc redible. And an enormous number of people are sensitive to those things. And gas and one gas – one cooking gas is a nightmare for many people and they don’t know. And how do you know? If you’ve got headaches, diarrhoea, acetab, acne and pains, weakness, nausea, asthma and hay fever – nobody tells you that these could be caused by allergy to these chemicals. I just feel that ordinary people have a right to know that there’s a potential for all these chemicals to cause serious health problems.

For more information: Contact the Allergy Association, PO Box 274, Ringwood, Vic 3134. They will be able to give addresses for country groups in Victoria and New South Wales and South Australia.

References:

The profession seeks rigorous demonstration of cause and effect associations between symptoms and chemical exposures. Such a demonstration is not feasible clinically but may be difficult to show using laboratory tests since appropriate data are not available. Also we are as yet uncertain as to the importance of toxic effects and allergic reactions in affected individuals. Immunology is still undergoing a process of rapid development and has not yet reached the point where one can provide appropriate laboratory tests. It is envisaged that eventually such tests will become available. Many patients of reactions involving changes in thought processes and altered mood states. In such individuals an accurate assessment of a reaction is especially hard. In reactions such as asthma or eczema the effects are more clearly evident.

Brain in mind such limitations of testing, in one or two locations facilities have been set up to perform provocation testing. Although cumbersome, this testing enables the identification of allergies by mimicking the symptoms affecting the patient's behaviour. With an increasing awareness amongst workers in occupational health, and in the community at large, of the role of chemicals in illness, the need for such facilities is becoming more and more evident. Until diagnostic tests are available there will be reliance on this type of approach. Far too little is being done in hospitals to develop allergy clinics which test comprehensively for a wide range of exposures. At present the definition of an allergy is based on the occurrence of symptoms and the basis for their form is required to have major changes in lifestyle to achieve effective avoidance. This may involve a change in home location or even occupation, at least in severe cases. It has been our experience that severely affected patients have found it difficult to make such changes in any case. Pioneering efforts are being made to set up facilities to help affected people stavent chemicals to which they are sensitive, but without effective treatment little can be done to improve conditions in work sites and schools. Many people who have the problem turn to doctors for help. However, the treatment is expensive, and where the necessity for its use has arisen, there have been difficulties in obtaining it because of a lack of understanding of the whole problem of food and chemical allergy.

About 1% of the population are affected by allergy. Allergic reactions to food additives include asthma, joint pain and mood change. As public awareness on the question of additives has increased, there have already been a number of changes to improve labelling of foods and make available additive-free items such as fruit juices and breakfast foods. We do have a long way to go in this area however.

The management of problems produced by allergy to airborne chemicals is even more difficult. Many of the chemicals result from indoor pollution and effective measures include changes in the home design to allow more rapid turnover of air, the use of natural textiles in furnishings, and the provision of alternative preparations for household cleaning, pest control and laundering. In public life the problem is even harder. We are, however, witnessing moves to limit the freedom to smoke cigarettes in office sites and other public places.

Measures to control emissions from industries have been in effect over a number of years already. There are now also moves to improve the air quality of motor vehicle emissions. However, the changes are just beginning. A more complete documentation of chemical allergy is required to form a basis of much wider changes.

Many patients with extensive chemical allergies have to make major changes in lifestyle to achieve effective avoidance. This may involve a change in home location or even occupation, at least in severe cases. It has been our experience that severely affected patients have found it difficult to make such changes in any case. Pioneering efforts are being made to set up facilities to help affected people stay away from chemicals to which they are sensitive, but without effective treatment little can be done to improve conditions in work sites and schools. Many people who have the problem turn to doctors for help. However, the treatment is expensive, and where the necessity for its use has arisen, there have been difficulties in obtaining it because of a lack of understanding of the whole problem of food and chemical allergy.

Overall it is clear that a more concerted effort is to be made to document the problem of chemical allergy to work out the immune and other mechanisms involved. As awareness of the effects that trace chemicals can have on the whole body this will be changes in practice such as architectural design, food packaging and food production. Much of the impetus for this will be required to come from the community at large.

Preparations are all but complete in Western Europe for the first deployment since the 1960s of USA ground-launched, medium-range nuclear missiles capable of striking the USSR within minutes. The first of the 'new generation' Cruise and Pershing II missiles are likely to be deployed in Britain and West Germany at the end of 1983, with other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) countries to follow in the next five years. A group of Australian cyclists visited the Fulda Valley in West Germany where some of the missiles will be sited. Paul Marshall met many of the people living under the increasing threat of nuclear war, and reports on the anti-nuclear movement and the variety of protest in the region.

Imagine cycling, heavily laden, along a quiet German country road. There are twelve riders: four are local people from the town of Bad Hersfeld. It's a pleasure to have them with us. Before our two friends from the Berlin Green Cycles had returned home. Without these people, or the other Germans who joined along the road, we were reliant upon our sketchy knowledge of German and upon our leaflet. At first we had cycled out of Braunschweig, We were in the middle of Fulda Valley, which straddles the border with the south-west corner of East Germany. Here political geography has created a corridor along which the military mind imagines advancing troops. Many of the new generation missiles planned for deployment in West Germany will find their way to Fulda Valley. Certainly this was one occasion on which I wished that our itinerary was less tight and that we might have stayed longer in the area. Most people have heard the phrase 'tactical nuclear warfare' but it takes on a new and different meaning in the Fulda Valley to bring its implications home. There was a videotape shown to us by the Green Party in Lautershach, a USA army production entitled Fulda Gap which portrays tactical nuclear armed units swinging into action. To the army films the Greens had added interviews with local people. They seemed not to favour even a localised nuclear war.

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Germany two weeks earlier in Braunschweig. It was a day of cycling down the border between East and West Germany, and a more personal way to Prague and because we knew it to be a highly militarised zone. After participating in the second European Nuclear Disarmament Conference in West Berlin, and receiving the invitation to the Prague event, we explored the possibility of cycling through East Germany. We discovered that the only permit permitted for cyclists had been upgraded into an autobahn year ago, thus restricting its use by cyclists. So we hitchhiked to Braunschweig, settled ourselves into the backroom of the Green Party's office, and finalised our plans. The Greens are very active in the Braunschweig area and have managed to put a woman into parliament, demonstrating the support they are winning in the area. Their office is a resource centre of environmental, peace, and women's literature, stickies, badges and posters. They regularly take parts of this centre into the street on a stall which folds out of a bicycle trailer, and we happily joined them in this activity. They arranged for us to meet with the mayor, arranged a newspaper interview, a talk at the high school, a film and slide night, and, from a bundle of photocopies taken from the information folders, they started a file on Australia and the Pacific region.

To their north the Braunschweig Greens are lending support to the campaign against a high-level nuclear waste repository at Gorleben. The Greens are more actively opposing the dumping of low- and intermediate-level waste in the coastal area south. The authorities claim that the Shah-Kushka mine is isolated from groundwater, leaching and thus presents no environmental problem, but the Greens contest this in an impressive booklet which outlines their many objections to the dumping of nuclear waste at Gorleben. The Greens have rejected their call for a full inquiry. Any town every town has its own story. For instance, we found while in Germany was inciting people to nuclear terrorism! It it refused to acknowledge our presence at the demonstration, or a part thereof. In practice this has proven to be very costly for the parties concerned.

We found a Germany with many ugly faces, but one where citizen action was truly inspiring, and one where many people offered us support and encouragement.

Members of the World Bike Ride in front of a community-erected sign protesting against nuclear waste dumping, Mitterteich, West Germany.

Paul Marshall outlines the background to the World Bike Ride for Peace, Disarmament and a Nuclear Free Future.

The concept of our ride was born during the cold war. We were inspired by the official opening of the Jabiru township, which marks the official opening of the Jabiru township, which we found while in West Germany was inciting people to nuclear terrorism! It it refused to acknowledge our presence at the demonstration, or a part thereof. In practice this has proven to be very costly for the parties concerned. We could go on. We found a Germany with many ugly faces, but one where citizen action was truly inspiring, and one where many people offered us support and encouragement.

Contact us in West Germany

- Alternative List, Musenweg 29, 1000 Berlin 31. Tel: +49 30 861 2194.
- Friends of the Earth, Meldinghoff, Gruennwaldstrasse 3, 30692 Schottendorf.
- Die Kariertum (The Groom), Kranewaldstrasse 41, 30692 Schottendorf.
- Gertrude Schilling (Greens parliamentarian in Lower Saxony), Kranewaldstrasse 12, 30692 Schottendorf.
- Atom Express, Marienthal 10, 3400 Gottingen.
- Australian Anti-nuclear Group, c/o Tim Green, 26, 6096 Mitterteich, Tel: +49 9633 34 05.

The route travelled by the World Bike Ride from Berlin to Prague. Many of the upcoming Cruise and Pershing II missile deployments will take place in the Felda Valley area.

Arrival on the outskirts of Prague, Czechoslovakia.

18 Chain Reaction
The disarmament movement in Britain underwent an unprecedented resurgence at the end of 1979. For the first time since the early 60s it became a truly mass movement with considerable influence. The immediate cause of this new vitality and popularity was the announcement by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to base a new generation of nuclear missiles in Western Europe – the much discussed Cruise and Pershing IIIs. That the majority of people in Western Europe understood the dangerous implications of this decision is demonstrated by the huge number who have become actively involved in opposing it.

Those implications are two-fold. On the one hand they make nuclear war more likely. The obvious use of these new weapons is to knock out the enemy’s nuclear capability with very little warning, giving NATO the ability to commence a nuclear war and theoretically suffer relatively little damage itself. NATO now has an officially announced first-strike policy; they are prepared to start a nuclear war if they believe the USSR is threatening to commence hostilities. What would count as a threat is never made clear.

At the same time, because these new weapons are stationed in Western Europe and not in the USA, the nuclear war that is now officially ‘thinkable’ will be fought in Europe. The policy of the USA seems to be to have a war that would leave itself relatively undamaged at the price of devastation of Europe, East and West. Little wonder that a mass movement arose right across Europe to challenge this threat.

In Britain the organisational focus of the revived disarmament campaign has been the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and European Nuclear Disarmament (END). It has been largely through the efforts of these groups that the movement has been able to maintain its vitality and even grow stronger over the last four years. CND now has a staff of over 30.

Dan Smith has worked with them full-time since 1972 and was until August this year (1983) chairperson of END. He has also written and collaborated on several major books and articles in the field, and was co-editor with E P Thomson of Protest and Survive, the seminal work of the revived disarmament campaign. He was recently in Australia on a speaking tour and talked with Chain Reaction’s Keith Redgen in Melbourne.

**The danger of nuclear war**

Is there a very great danger of nuclear war at the present time?

The nuclear weapons are there, the nuclear strategies are there and so the risks are always there. The image I always use is of a gunpowder barrel which a stray spark could set off. My favourite choice for that stray spark would be a relatively minor confrontation between USA and Soviet forces in which, in the initial stages, neither side would back down for fear of losing face.

What’s especially dangerous about that is that the USA and the USSR have got a lot of experience in dealing with confrontations between their proxies but the last time they had a direct confrontation of their own forces was over the Cuban missile crisis in 1962, and that was saved because the Soviet Union backed down. This was seen in the Soviet leadership as a demonstration of weakness and was one of the reasons why Khrushchev was ousted, and one of the reasons that contributed to the Soviet nuclear arms build-up, so that they wouldn’t have to back down in future.

At the time the peace movement reemerged, was it true that nuclear war had become more likely?

I think that the situation became more dangerous at the end of the 1970s with the death of detente and the junking of the USA-Soviet Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) agreement, and also with the general shift in mood in the USA which did lead to some quite dramatic changes of policy towards a military build-up. But I don’t think that created a dramatic increase in the danger of nuclear war.

A lot of people exaggerated the increase in the danger of nuclear war. One of the reasons why they did was a very personal thing, since either they hadn’t seen the danger, or hadn’t been doing anything about the danger. They wanted to say that it was a change in the situation rather than a change in their awareness of the situation. But I don’t think international politics really works in a way that leads to these sudden massive changes in the nature of the situation – until you get the spark for an absolute catastrophe. Basically we’ve got a long-standing nuclear confrontation and as long as that goes on it’s dangerous. Even in the period of detente it still remains dangerous, and one of the biggest dangers is that it will erode detente, which it did the last time.

And has the Soviet Union become more belligerent?

No, the invasion of Afghanistan was a major new development, because they were committing combat forces outside of the USSR and the satellite states for the first time. But that might have been a sign of an increased willingness to use armed force at a relatively low level. It wasn’t a sign of greater belligerence towards any Western Europe or South Korea or Japan. In fact in
general terms, even including the invasion of Afghanistan, Soviet policy has changed a lot less than USA and Western policy.

Was detente a myth?
Edward Thompson has argued that new weapons technologies were not pursued directly in the period of detente. Was detente in fact a myth?

It wasn't. It was a general improvement in relations and it was a period when arms control seemed more possible. For all its nonsense, the USA and the USSR signed the SALT agreement and actually involved removing some weapons, if you counted those that had been in the West for a long time and had been a step in the right direction. It would have laid the basis for another round of removing some more weapons later on. But detente was, in military terms, just a kind of half-measure.

Throughout the 70s there was this constant singing of communiques. Political detente was being developed but we needed a military corollary and they never found one. That period reflects an unwillingness to take on the military questions, and partly that political detente, though real, was not very profound.

So why the decision to deploy Cruise missiles?
Part of the welling up for it was to re-strengthen detente by getting to grips, in international terms, with the question of nuclear weapons in Europe. There was a feeling that unless this was done, or had only been done if the West was threatening to deploy new weapons. But there were some important factors in this decision, a series of different motivations, and re-strengthening detente was one, although I think it was a very strong one in the mind of Helmut Schmidt, the West German chancellor at the time.

Amongst the other wellings up you've got simple technological determinism. Cruise missiles were being developed for air-launched nuclear armament. Glamourizing the other was the possibility; the decision was made to do this for the required engineering development was taken in late 1976. It was of course, unless the targets were Moscow, Canadians, French, the missiles weren't going to be based in the USA. Therefore there was to be based abroad: NATO was beginning to get worried about the nuclear weapons in the USA, quite rightly, but it was beginning to get worried, and not in the last instance, about the cruise missiles.

Another welling up you can see for Pershing was that the army has always wanted to be in on the strategic nuclear decision, defining strategy as the ability to attack the USSR, and Pershing 2 II has got it.

There's all kinds of bits and pieces like that. So I don't think there is any way in which you can take one thing and say this explains why NATO decided to deploy the Pershings II.

Peace movements - East and West
How's the peace movement going, especially in Eastern Europe?
Well in Eastern Europe there's probably the largest of the East European independent movements, and which is mainly expressed through the Lutheran Church and amongst young people. One of its main focuses is the militarisation of East German society. Therefore a lot of it takes the form of a campaign about conscientisation and the right to conscientious objection.

In Hungary there's a movement, rather smaller, which calls itself the Peace for West-East Dialogue, and that name very much summarises what its goals are. In the USSR there is a series of small local committees with less of a presence in the Soviet Union than the movement has in Hungary.

What's particularly important, I think, is to understand that these are not disinterested groups in the way we are used to understanding in the West. They are not solely concerned with attacking and criticizing their own governments. They are taking an independent approach to the problems of peace and security and it's very important for them that they don't get pushed into a corner where they can only be disinterested and therefore operate semi-clandestinely.

There has been some suggestion that the symmetries that should be looked for are between the peace movement in the West and the dissident movement in the East, especially Solidarity appearing to mirror what was going on in the peace movement in the West, and that some links should be forged. There was a lot of mistrust. How do you view that?

One of the problems with many dissidents in Eastern Europe is that they tend to regard their enemy's enemy as their friend, which clearly is not the case in the Third World. It's just not to mean being in favour of NATO and the USA and therefore in favour of the new Cruise missiles. Secondly it would, in my view, be a complete mis-judgement for the West European disarmament movements to begin now in a way which is independent of the way in which the East European human rights organisations.

Thirdly, I think it is simply wrong to look for any kind of public force in Eastern Europe which functions in anything like the way in which disarmament movements did in Western Europe.

So I think that some of that kind of setting up of the supposed symmetries between the movement in the West and the East dissident movements in the East is a complete misunderstanding of Eastern Europe. Solidarity is very important, but it's very important in terms of Polish politics and the future of Polish people's lives and not particularly important in terms of combatting militarism in Eastern Europe.

The point that East Europeans often see the enemy's enemy as their friend could also be levelled at the West European peace movement because a great number of them are reductionists in criticising the USSR.

Yes that's right. It's not difficult to figure out where they stand, on the USSR, and it's often very difficult to figure out way of making criticisms, where they're relevant, about the USIRK in a way which doesn't play the Cold War game. I think that one of the things that we have managed to do with CNS is precisely to carve out that new position, because non-alignment must mean non-alignment from both sides. It's the position that must partly be based on a criticism. It's a major challenge, it's very difficult, but that's the thing that has been the way things have been for thirty years has been a culture which wants us to choose sides. And yet the Soviet Union and of course disarmament movements don't want to choose sides.

The only publicity given by the mass media here has been when there are major demonstrations of thousands or occasional mention of Greenham Common. Sometimes as if as if the 'peace movement' has almost disappeared after 1981. Has it in fact receded or has there been a change of emphasis and tactics?

The problem you're asking about is a problem in reportage in the mass media. The movement in Britain has, if anything, grown since our last major demonstration which was in June 1982. The things that is most of the events which we carry out in the meantime are not terribly 'newsworthy'. Some of them have been, especially the ones at Greenham Common.

The local branchers of CNS, numbering about a thousand, are active all the time. But of course what they're actually doing will be handing out leaflets or having market stalls or they sell literature. Several have opened up workshops and study groups which are being arranged in schools, getting involved in local media reports - readings, rock concerts, folk evenings, door to door canvassing. It's not going to make a splash. But they are all extremely important and you couldn't have the large demonstrations which the international peace movements show off if they didn't have these local groups. Not to mention the peace and security and it's very important in Eastern Europe.

The economics of militarism
Your main published work has been in the area of the economics of militarism. How do you think an understanding of this helps us to think in peace activism?
In a number of different ways. Firstly, although it's right to focus on the most serious and most immediate arguments, the economic arguments which are that's to say on nuclear weapons and nuclear war, the political arguments which are to be informed by a wider understanding of the total problem. One of the main reasons that this is the economic one. Other dimensions are not less important, the social and psychological for example.

Secondly, one of the requirements, though not in itself the most convincing argument against the international military order, is the economic argument. It diverts resources away from things which need to be done and which are also extremely dangerous, making militaries.

Thirdly there's always the argument faced by disarmament movements that disarmament will create unemployment. That's a complete myth.

So I think the basically why it's important to get to grips with the economics of militarism. To the best of our knowledge, in Britain there are about six economists who do any work on military spending from any political perspective. Something which has been left to one side, and that's why we don't think that it's impossible to get people to grasp at it and we wrote what we thought the book as an introduction for us and also that some people to see the economic arguments of both the causes and the consequences of high military spending.
capitalism. But it’s more a question of simply deploying all the arguments and all the lines that are not just on economic questions, but the lot, which are needed in order to support a major political force. Now if you find some of the big city bonzes support disarmament that’s fine. I don’t see disarmament as being in their interests then that could easily be a rationalisation in economic terms of what they see as political interests.

Disarmament and socialism

Well then do you think that the peace movement doesn’t have to be, and even shouldn’t be, an armament movement?

It’s hard for me to say that because I am a socialist. I think that the peace movement appeals to more people than just socialists, then it’s going to be no ground whatsoever. That’s why the appeal constantly has to be made at a broader and more general level, and why it needs to be backed by a range of arguments.

There are many people who are not socialists but who are, when they’re brought face to face with the problem,icken by the rise of resources involved in high military spending and do want to see something done about it. There are many others. But the peace movement is also not socialists who understand that the risks of nuclear war are much greater than that something has to be done about it. And there are many other people who don’t even understand the logical flaws of Western nuclear strategy and see the dangers which are inherent there.

For me socialism is essentially about democratic accountability about people being able to control their destiny. From my personal perspective disarmament fits into that. It seems that the more militarised a society becomes, the less democratic it is. There’s nothing absolutely at all democratic about nuclear war. You can’t even choose to be a conscientious objector and go through that, and come out the other end alive, but you can only choose to go through hell. Who one is finding in politics in general is that the area of democratic accountability and democratic authority is being reduced and one of the factors that is reducing it is, is the international military order.

My active support for disarmament is by socialism go together. For other people it works out completely differently. There’s no coherent logic in that way that people take up political positions. Socially-motivated socialists are in the disarmament movement to recognise that, and to recognise that’s what they’re active about at the moment. Disarmament is not the question of capitalism as a system itself.

And yet, in The Economics of Militarism, which describes the things involved in militarisation, it seems as if for them to disappear would be to fundamentally change the nature of contemporary capitalism; that peace conversion that you describe would be a social world of a far different order from contemporary capitalism and something quite akin to socialism. Surely most people who are peace-minded would see you calling for something like socialism.

Yes, they could well do that, but that’s a book that I’ve written and not a policy that I’m calling upon the disarmament movement to express. I think there is a feasible, though not as attractive, capitalist economics of disarmament. I certainly don’t think that to prevent Cruise missiles from coming to Western Europe mounts any kind of basic challenge to capitalism. That isn’t to say that it’s a bad thing or that it’s therefore a good thing. The questions are related but not at the level of political campaigning.

And yet, I’d like to see everybody being both a good democratic socialist and an active supporter of disarmament initiatives, but the way to do that is not by forcing the disarmament movement into simply being a different expression of socialism.

The British Labour Party

What’s the situation in the British Labour Party now, especially with their new leader?

Well the situation in the Labour Party about two or three years has been absolutely disastrous. From the point of view of support for disarmament and CND, it has been very good. But the party has been itself apart and gotten into a terribly weak state. I’m very hopeful, not simply about the effect of Neil Kinnock as Labour Party leader, but about the meaning of the vote for him. I think that it is a very important step forward to combine principles and pragmatism in policies which will make for a better order. There are understandable to people which can get popular support. How it will pan out over the next few years I don’t know. The fact that he has been elected is a good sign but it’s not a solution to the problems of the Labour Party. They go much deeper than that.

In the brief glimpses that we got of his acceptance speech here we did actually mention disarmament.

Yes that’s right. He is a firmly committed supporter of CND and has been since before the revival of CND. I’ve never had any doubts about his personal commitment.

Greenham Common

What do you think’s likely to happen at Greenham Common when they try to put the Cruise missiles in?

They’ll be able to put them in. A lot of people will try to stop them and will be arrested. That will make for a major propaganda battle and I think that the effects of that will be had for the government, they’ll ride through it.

I don’t know the answer to this, but what I think is the important question is what Greenham Common women will try to do after the deployment. They’ve got a difficult decision, to stay or to disappear. They could move camp to Moleworth, the other base where Cruise missiles would go to. I’m not sure to their thinking so I don’t know what their conclusion will be. The obvious risk is that it’s going to be taken as a sign that the disarmament movement is a joke. On the other hand if they stay then the risk is that they will be tributised in some way at some later date. So it is a difficult decision.

And you’d say Greenham Common has been an important factor in the disarmament campaign in England?

I think that from about October last year until about Easter this year was the major thing which was giving the disarmament movement in Britain a real sense of direction, a real sense of thrust and energy. It had a very good image in the media and a role in the two demonstrations, the one in December which was mixed only about two miles in size which was mixed and was organised with CND as well; were both extremely important. At the moment the media image of the Greenham Common women is falling. But that’s not their fault — that’s the media changing their handling of the subject.

The International military order

In a talk you gave this afternoon you said that what the peace movement should do is move away from the issue of nuclear weapons to the issue of the international military order. How do you see that as developing?

I don’t think that it’s for the moment that the disarmament movement should do is use the issue of nuclear weapons as an introduction to the problem of the international military order. Nuclear weapons are only the most frightening and awesome appearance of the international military order. You can’t simply look off nuclear weapons as an untouched. First of all it’s not feasible, and secondly, even if it were feasible, the beast is there and it will grow its nuclear head again.

I don’t agree with people who say we should stop being CND, and become a campaign for disarmament in general, but I do think it’s important to use people’s interest and activity and concern about nuclear weapons as a way of introducing the wider issue. To mention the book*, one of the major reasons why The War Azides will all be because people are very worried about nuclear weapons. In fact, nuclear war is a relatively small presence in The War Azides. We will see all the wars which are going on and the social, economic and political systems and decisions which underwrite the international military order, which create dangers that people are most worried about.

One of the things in The War Azides which is possibly just frightening as nuclear war, which gets a lot of publicity are chemical and bacteriological wars.

Right. The USA is on the verge of chemical-warfare.


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Alternative defence

What is CND doing about alternative defence strategy?

I don’t think that they are going to adopt a policy on non-nuclear defence except to say that it should be promoting debate. It does this anyway, simply by the very fact that it exists. But I really in the kind of plethora of activities should stop being CND, and become a campaign in England?

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The International military order

In a talk you gave this afternoon you said that what the peace movement should do is move away from the issue of nuclear weapons to the issue of the international military order. How do you see that as developing?

I don’t think that it’s for the moment that the disarmament movement should do is use the issue of nuclear weapons as an introduction to the problem of the international military order. Nuclear weapons are only the most frightening and awesome appearance of the international military order. You can’t simply look off nuclear weapons as an untouched. First of all it’s not feasible, and secondly, even if it were feasible, the beast is there and it will grow its nuclear head again.

I don’t agree with people who say we should stop being CND, and become a campaign for disarmament in general, but I do think it’s important to use people’s interest and activity and concern about nuclear weapons as a way of introducing the wider issue. To mention the book*, one of the major reasons why The War Azides will all be because people are very worried about nuclear weapons. In fact, nuclear war is a relatively small presence in The War Azides. We will see all the wars which are going on and the social, economic and political systems and decisions which underwrite the international military order, which create dangers that people are most worried about.

One of the things in The War Azides which is possibly just frightening as nuclear war, which gets a lot of publicity are chemical and bacteriological wars.

Right. The USA is on the verge of chemical-warfare.

K-K Kakadu

By Susan Mueller

The development of uranium mining in the Northern Territory has created an enormous (Iraq) to the environment and Aboriginal art and archaeological sites of the Arnhem Land Plateau. The region contains Kakadu National Park, which extends from the coast of Van Diemen Gulf, through floodplains and lowlands to a sandstone escarpment and dissected plateaus. Within Kakadu are some of Australia's most outstanding natural and cultural sites. Its rare fynbos, and the antiquity and quality of Aboriginal cultural sites make Kakadu a unique region.

The present federal land government has shown, since coming to office in March, that it too is willing to accommodate the uranium industry. The government has shown, since coming to office in March, that it too is willing to accommodate the uranium industry. The declaration of Stage 1 of Kakadu National Park was made in June 1979. An area inside the park, and the boundaries of the park, was revised in March, that it too is willing to accommodate the uranium industry. The development of uranium mining in the Ranger area made it possible to build a uranium mining facility at Jabiluka.

KOONGARRA

The Koongarra deposit was originally discovered by the Canadian firm Noranda in 1972. Noranda, after dismissing suggestions that it might have difficulty selling uranium from the project, sold it to Denison Mines, the world's largest producer of uranium. Koongarra is located in the Noutagle Creek catchment, upstream from the Woolwoonga Wildlife Sanctuary, the most ecologically sensitive area of the park.

The excision of the Koongarra Mining Reserve from Stage 1 of Kakadu had meant that mining would not technically be going on within a national park, and that the area would not be covered by the park's management. The uranium mining lease was renewed in 1981 by the Liberal government before it lost control of the federal Upper House.

RANGER

The declaration of Stage 2 of Kakadu National Park means that the Energy Resources of Australia mine (Ranger) is now surrounded by the park. This mine will continue to produce and export uranium.

The number of accidents and structural faults at the Ranger mine continues to grow. The government has shown, since coming to office in March, that it too is willing to accommodate the uranium industry. The government has shown, since coming to office in March, that it too is willing to accommodate the uranium industry. The development of uranium mining in the Ranger area made it possible to build a uranium mining facility at Jabiluka.

Environmental studies, as a separate discipline in Australia, is now approximately ten years old. It is timely, therefore, to ask about the methods, problems, and prospects of environmental education. This is a particularly relevant inquiry for the environment movement which is increasingly looking towards environmental education institutions for explanations and understandings of the many complex problems that Western industrial societies have created in their interaction with the environment. Phil Tigue looks at some of these prospects.

The need for environmental education was originally perceived at a time when 'environment' was a trendy word. At this time, governments throughout Australia were capitalising on the new popular concern with the environment by creating environmental legislation, environmental policies and environmental agencies which were hatched as remedies for the perceived ecological crisis. In a sense this political embrace lent a respectability to environmental concern, a respect which helped considerably with the establishment of institutions and courses concerned with environmental education.

The establishment of educational institutions and government environmental programmes was a product of the nature of environmentalism. The universal nature and complexity of environmental problems led to a lack of clearly defined educational programmes. Environmentalism is not narrowly defined and directed like other disciplinary pursuits such as economics, law or science. Educationally, it means that environmental studies has become somewhat of a common educational form with a distinct quality of 'all things to all persons' about it. This quality is an inevitable result of the nature, complexity and depth of the environmental problem, the lack of a common environmental theory or framework, and the lack of clear definitions of subject matter. Despite the fuzziness of environmental education, we have, more or less, successfully moulded it through to date. This is fortunate because it is only with such struggling that the quality and integrity of environmental education can be improved and channelled into an influential societal force for change.

The diffuse nature of environmental education has thus spawned a plethora of courses. A glance through the handbooks of Australian tertiary education institutions will confirm this, with such diverse areas of study as Occupational Health, Urban Planning, Environmental Control, Arid Lands Management, Environmental Design, Industrial Ergonomics, Ecology and so on being offered. So what exactly is going on here? Well, some of these courses are renamed versions of older disciplines, taking advantage of the buzz word quality of the environment mentioned earlier. For example, Occupational Health may be termed a branch of epidemiology while Arid Lands Management may be conveniently classified as a subdiscipline of geography. Other areas of environmental scholarship include new areas which have been forced by the combination of two or more traditional disciplines. This combination is often a product of the nature of environmentalism. Environmentalism is not narrowly defined and directed like other disciplinary pursuits such as economics, law or science. Educationally, this means that environmental studies has become somewhat of a common educational form with a distinct quality of 'all things to all persons' about it. This quality is an inevitable result of the nature, complexity and depth of the environmental problem, the lack of a common environmental theory or framework, and the lack of clear definitions of subject matter. Despite the fuzziness of environmental education, we have, more or less, successfully moulded it through to date. This is fortunate because it is only with such struggling that the quality and integrity of environmental education can be improved and channelled into an influential societal force for change.

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Some dates and quotes have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Many trade unions with members involved in the mining and export of uranium have anti-uranium policies. In this article, Allan Frew looks at some recent actions by unionists to halt the export of uranium, which demonstrate both the strong 'shop-floor' support for these policies, and the many limitations facing unions attempting to implement them.

One of the first to condemn Hawke's overturning of Labor's anti-uranium policy was Bill Dolan, the president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). Dolan said the ACTU executive would 'attempt to devise some strategy to make life difficult for the Prime Minister and his mate Mr Parbo.' (Sir Arne Parbo is the chairman of BHP.)

Dolan said that unions such as the Electrical Trades Union and the Amalgamated Metalworkers, Foundry and Shipwrights Union could be involved in a new effort against uranium mining. Both unions have taken action against workers who work in uranium mines and in 1980 metal workers at Seargent/ANL and Arco/Dolan in Brisbane refused to make equipment for the Ranger uranium mine.

Dave Northey, the assistant national secretary of the Australian Railways Union (ARU) said: "We can look at these industries that service the uranium industry, we can look at ways of diverting the staff that come out of the mines, we can block it, we can delay it and it will cost the industry itself and the supporting industries enormous amounts of time and money and in fall down in their contractual obligations." Northey hopes that the ARU will decide to take action against Roxby Downs by refusing to carry supplies or equipment for the mine or handling uranium from it. The rail link runs from Roxby Downs to Woomera, but the mine would probably be able to transport uranium by road transport alone. While Roxby

Dolan's actions against uranium by trade unionists took place in 1981. In Darwin a stipend of uranium from Ranger was halted for seven weeks at the wharf, and in Brisbane a campaign by several unions disrupted exports from Mary Kathleen. In both cases union action was overcome by threats of massive fines under section 45D, the secondary boycott provisions of the Fraser government's Trade Practices Act.

Darwin, 1981 ...
Pacific Sky

eighteen containers of yellowcake from fusing to load uranium onto ships with and the sulphur was left on the wharf, load uranium if it was delivered to the Ranger for Darwin harbour, together with a
narrow margin of 39 votes to 37 in

the anti-uranium unions decided that the export and they put a picket there as

Ranger had brought sulphur blowing about and making wharfies sick. The anti-uranium unions decided that the

FORCE called on the ACTU to convene a

meeting to discuss ways of enforcing the

ACTU's policy on uranium. Shipping agents in Brisbane decided not to accept bookings from Mary Kathleen Uranium because of the actions of the tug crews. Mary Kathleen stopped trying to export uranium and took the

SUA to court.

In November, a Federal Court judge

ruled that the owners to charter planes to fly the

uranium to Japan. There was specu-

lation that the mining companies were likely to take

action under section 45D of the Trade Practices Act which provides for heavy fines against unions and officials.

At their next meeting in Melbourne, the

ACTU executive voted by 17 to 7 to lift the Darwin bans. The

move to lift the bans was led by Waterside Workers secretary Charlie Fitzgibbon. Dolan was not at the meeting. The

two unions were assured that the ACTU would remain opposed to uranium uranium, even though, for practical reasons, the

bans were being lifted.

Margaret Gillespie of Friends of the

Earth (Darwin) said the move was a very
disapointed.

Jamie Robertson of the SUA in Darwin: One newspaper story said the new abandonments were a sign of relief that they had not been man-

manoeuvred into a position where

she said: "We're very disapointed, but

we're not surprised. If they had set up a sub post it would have led us into a very long and difficult fight.

Dave Northey said: There's a lot of division about this, but I think that if the ACTU and the parliamnetary act on the ALP has got to understand that all of their weight behind the people inumps could collapse if the weight of section 45D could collapse in case they were uranium jobs.

Northern Territory government's Trade and

Resources, Doug Anthony, and Industrial Relations Minister, Dave Northey, flew to Darwin to hold talks with the

Northern Territory government. The Northern Territory's energy minister, John Egan, and Energy, Ian Tuxworth, claimed that

pressure was building from the mine owners to charter planes to fly the

uranium to Japan. There was specu-

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Jamie Robertson of the SUA in Darwin: One newspaper story said the new abandonments were a sign of relief that they had not been man-
The Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Beverage Containers is under heavy fire from industry lobbyists who are recommending a deposit law for Victoria. The Inquiry, which is the work of three Labor, one National and two Liberal members, is expected to report in February next year (1984). It was set up to investigate the spread of ‘throw-away’ containers – non-refillable glass bottles, ‘plastishield’ aluminium and plastic-coated cardboard boxes, black-based plastic bottles, etc – which are rapidly replacing refillable bottles.

Bottles back. The result has been the disappearance of non-refillable soft drink bottles. PET plastic bottles are still available, though they are less common than in Victoria. There is a very high return rate for bottles and cans – over 95% are refilled or recycled. Soft drinks and beer are cheaper in South Australia than in any other state. The deposit system has overwhelming popular support. Several hundred jobs have been created in recycling as a result of the South Australian legislation, and the state is remarkably free of litter, especially on beaches and roadsides.

The industry lobby

The packaging industry has an unenviable fear of deposit legislation. It lobbies directly, and exerts pressure on consumer organisations to lobby against the scheme. The packaging industry has considerable leverage over beverage companies (who depend on it for supplies of containers), recycling firms (who supply scrap metals and glass), and organisations such as Keep Australia Beautiful (which depends heavily on the industry for funding).

The Glassworkers Union has a small membership, almost entirely dependent on ACI in Victoria for jobs. This union has lobbied with the utmost vigour to move forward the same arguments as the Packaging Council of Australia (PCA), the packaging industry lobby group. These arguments have been summarised in a glossy brochure sent to state and federal members of parliament. The PCA claims:

- Deposits will increase prices and reduce sales. Consumers will see the deposit as a price rise and will be put off buying beverages.
- There will be a loss of jobs. Any jobs gained will be unskilled and inferior.
- Beverage containers make up only a tiny fraction of litter (7%), so deposits will not solve the litter problem.

The argument hinges on the belief that prices would rise and sales drop under a deposit system. Both these claims are demonstrably untrue. Soft drink companies, limited to soft drinks and beer can, was introduced in 1977 in South Australia. Of course or bottle merchants. Drink manufacturers are required to take their returnable a jar and an empty bottle to the supermarket one day and saw full bottles of Taras on sale for less than he paid for the empty bottles. The PCA’s arguments on litter are also unconvincing. Anyone who has visited South Australia will have noticed the clean beaches, the lack of broken glass, the litter-free highways. Bodons such as Keep Australia Beautiful (Victoria) and the NSW State Pollution Control Commission would have us believe that this is only a ‘subjective impression’. They have developed complex mathematical models to show that despite our faulty perception, their scientific tests show ‘objective’ litter in states which have deposit laws.

If anyone finds that hard to swallow, the second line of defence is that the reduction of litter in South Australia is solely due to the work of Keep South Australia Beautiful (KESAB) and deposits, the PCA’s arguments on litter in South Australia are a ‘myth’.

But the core of the issue is employment. South Australia is in the grip of a severe economic recession for several years. During this time approximately 8,000 jobs have been lost. This is a problem which has to be addressed. The KESAB case claims their work is physically hard, but boring, and not going to be as attractive is that they have to pay staff to handle the returns. Some companies have shut down their steel plant in Adelaide because of it. Gadsdens, the can makers, have dropped even further in New South Wales and have not recovered there. Gadsdens may have used the move to half-litre PET plastic bottles goes ahead, even more jobs will be lost, this time jobs in the Glassworkers Union. Labour requirements to produce PET bottles are minimal. It is only a ‘subjective impression’. They have developed complex mathematical models to show that despite our faulty perception, their scientific tests show ‘objective’ litter in states which have deposit laws.

One-way packaging is a drain on our economy, destroys jobs and causes disposal problems which are a cost to the whole community. The public pays for Workers in Adelaide, South Australia, whose jobs were created as the result of bottle deposit legislation in that state. Above: Woman receiving returned bottles in Coles supermarket. Below: Man working in bottle yard.

Chain Reaction 33

Sydney, melbourne Beautiful's entire supply of plastic soft drink bottles.

Finally, the cost to the economy of disposables must be mentioned. Aluminium requires huge amounts of energy to produce, which is usually supplied by state governments. Aluminium cans are fully recyclable. With deposits they are recycled, more than at present, and the energy saving is impressive.

Many of the materials used in throw-away packaging are imported and generally they are not recycled. Imported materials include the cardboard used in milk cartons (from Finland and Japan), the extremely expensive PET resin used in soft drink bottles, and soda ash, used in glass making. The vast majority of one-way glass bottles are not recycled.

One-way packaging is a drain on our economy, destroys jobs and causes disposal problems which are a cost to the whole community. The public pays for Workers in Adelaide, South Australia, whose jobs were created as the result of bottle deposit legislation in that state. Above: Woman receiving returned bottles in Coles supermarket. Below: Man working in bottle yard.

Because of one-way’s, refillable bottles are a cheap but labour-intensive system suited to local distribution (because of the need to transport bottles back to the filler). With one-ways, large fillers are able to undercut the small country companies. One filler told us how he went to the supermarket one day and saw full bottles of Taras on sale for less than he paid for the empty bottles. He gave up in despair. Some companies have survived by doing home delivery. Others have become local fillers for the big companies. Once that happens they are utterly dependent and can be closed down at the big company’s whim.

If the move to half-litre PET plastic bottles goes ahead, even more jobs will be lost, this time jobs in the Glassworkers Union. Labour requirements to produce PET bottles are minimal – the main costs are the machinery and the PET resin itself. Just 60 workers, in one lost. While most of the jobs were one-way packaging is a drain on our economy, destroys jobs and causes disposal problems which are a cost to the whole community. The public pays for Workers in Adelaide, South Australia, whose jobs were created as the result of bottle deposit legislation in that state. Above: Woman receiving returned bottles in Coles supermarket. Below: Man working in bottle yard.

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Packaging wrapped up

By Richard Nankin

Australia's packaging manufacturing industry is highly centralised and monopsony controlled. Competition and trade seldom operate within this industry. There are numerous cases of vertical integration - most of the largest consumers of packaging products have interests in the companies which supply them, and vice versa.

Packaging manufacturers in Australia, and worldwide, have been amongst the top 'performers' on the share markets over the past decade. This reflects a rapid shift over this period from inestimable and re-refillable to throw-away and single-use containers, combined with a huge growth in the types of packaging forms available. Many new products have been developed to make use of these new packaging forms. The Fruit Box type of long-life container and the plastic-coated cardboard carton are but two examples of this.

The rapid changes and growth taking place in the packaging industry have been accompanied by many takeovers, amalgamations, bids and counter-bids, both on the share markets and behind the scenes.

The packaging companies, both individually and through their lobbying groups (such as the Packaging Council of Australia) are amongst the staunchest opponents of 'environmental enhancement' and strong environmental legislation. Many of the companies involved in Australia's packaging industry can be classed amongst our top polluters, and have close links with the mining and extractive industries.

The Australian public deserves a wholesome and responsive government which takes action to reduce waste to land and sea deposits for price reasons. Conservation groups strongly support for it becomes so strong that it cannot be repealed, even by conservative governments.

Recycling Campaign Contacts

If the recycling campaign in Victoria is successful in its call for beverage container deposit legislation, it will provide the impetus for the adoption of similar policies in other states, and for further waste-reducing and waste-reduction initiatives. For further information contact the people in your state.

Australian Capital Territory

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Western Australia

Bruce Mitchell
Recycling Campaign
Friends of the Earth (Perth)
399 Hay St
Perth, WA 6000
Tel: (09) 331 5942

Glass

Australian Consolidated Industries (ACI) is the largest glass container manufacturer, and has an almost total monopoly in glass manufacturing. It controls 90% of the glass market in Australia, its only competition is from Smorgon Consolidated Industries, which owns a glass manufacturing plant in Sydney.

Plastics

ACI, Hoechst (German owned) and ICT (British owned) together control most of the Australian plastics packaging industry. ACI also controls the Australian market for PET plastic soft drink bottles.

Paper

The paper market is dominated by two local manufacturers, Australian Paper Manufacturers (APM) and Australian Pulp & Paper Mills (APPM). Their virtual monopolies in newsprint and writing paper are now being challenged by Smorgons, which is in the process of building a new pulp mill in Melbourne. The only other manufacturer of any significance is Fibre Containers Ltd, which is owned by the USA-based Amatil.

Steel

Blue Hill Proprietary Co Ltd (BHP) is the monopoly here, selling to most of its customers to the two large fabricating companies Gadsden and Containers Ltd. Australia's rate of steel recycling is abysmally low by world standards, although the situation may improve with the arrival of Smed's old firm, Smorgons, which is currently building a small but very modern steel mill designed with the capability of secondhand metal in mind. BHP, however, is not pleased.

Aluminium

Alcoa (USA owned) and Comalco (Canadian owned) share the market for aluminium smelting, and a substantial part of their production is destined for the mining and extractive industries.

For Love or Money

McMurphy, Margot Nash, Margot Oliver and Jeni Thornton. Music by Elizabeth Drake. 16mm, colour, 120 minutes. Available from Sydney Filmmakers Cooperative. Tel: (02) 33 0721.

Reviewed by Linnell Seccom and Trish Luker.

Aboriginal domestic servants, Mundubungna Station, Western Australia, 1898.

In the film to describing the context of Aboriginal women's work knowing that the white viewer has little understanding of Aboriginal life and history (see Girls Own, no 13, November-December 1983, p 9).

The film is both a 'history', and a story of women's lives and work. The traditional and personalised form of story-telling is an important aspect of its presentation. To achieve the depth and insight that story-telling gives, the filmmakers have taken some licence. For example, footage of 1950s migrant factory workers is used in conjunction with a voice-over from recent interviews with migrant women about how they feel about their work. They have integrated the feelings of women into the 'facts' of history.

The film both challenges and subverts the concept of duality on which most of our thinking about the world is based. In particular, the duality of subjective/objective forms is overcome by interweaving these two forms throughout the film. The film is an 'objective' documentary, but more importantly, it is a presentation of an integrated subjective experience. The subjective...
form is introduced in a variety of ways, including the fairly conventional and well-known political campaigns of the 70s and 80s, including clips from land-right rallies, International Women's Day marches and the struggle of women and girls to work in the mines, in Wollongong. This activism emerges as a result of earlier meetings giving a sense of historical continuity. While in the 1960s the struggle was centred between women, the film also presents solidarity.

The last part of the film – Work of Women – presents some of the crucial case studies and well-known political campaigns of the 70s and 80s, including clips from land-right rallies, International Women’s Day marches and the struggle of women and girls to work in the mines, in Wollongong. This activism emerges as a result of earlier meetings giving a sense of historical continuity. While in the 1960s the struggle was centred between women, the film also presents solidarity.

Periodical

Outrage: a magazine for lesbians and gay men. Published by Gay Publications Co-operative, PO Box 21, Carlton South, Vic. 3053. Eleven issues per annum, $1.50 each.

Reviewed by Kimberly O’Sullivan

If anyone had told me twelve months ago that I would be subscribing to a mixed gay magazine I would not have believed them. I now subscribe to Outrage but not without reservations. I want to preface any criticism of Outrage with the ugly anti-lesbian and gay prejudice currently displayed by Friends of the Earth. I am one of the lesbian columnists. There is a real need for support of the interests of lesbians and gay men and women. Our interests are not only different, they are often contradictory. The construction of the film often challenges accepted notions of documentary style, and makes use of a variety of contexts, at times meaning "we", the filmmakers, and at others "we", the viewers. As viewers, one of us found the use of a subjective style within the documentary form strengthened the film and made it more accessible. The other of us found the intermeshing of this style with the strategies of the film makers strengthened the film in a different way.

The film is about the struggle of lesbians and gay men. It is about breaking out of the constraints of the male body in the straight world and finding their way in a world that is not organized around them. The use of repetition is a striking feature of the film. It is a way of presenting a simple chronological listing of the struggles of lesbians and gay men. It is a way of presenting a simple chronological listing of the struggles of lesbians and gay men.

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specie interest as our fundamental point of reference." This is not an easy nut to crack. There has been, for instance, through: the Lucas Aerospace experiment in Britain, Environmentalists for Peace Employment in the USA and here, the Greenpeace organisation, some moves in the Government Aircraft Factories, and they have set up alternative production for more socially useful products. It's doing this sort of thing — linking the immediate interests of workers to protect their jobs with their longer term interests as inhabitants of this planet — that Williams sees as the role of socialists.

Williams has a bit of a blast at 'non-political environmentalism' — you know the stuff — 'Oh we couldn't do that, it's too complicated...'. And a bit of a go at the 'We'll be all right, we've got 5 acres, perhaps the commonest vic­

and trade unionists should be a serious get worse, faster. It won't be easy, but new methods, and lots of imagination, is in the military's interest to reinforce the role of women as mother, prostitute, wife and nurse. Militarisation of Women's Lives by Cynthia Enloe in Does Khaki Become You? The Militarisation of Women's Lives, describes in detail the military's dependence on patriarchal structures for its continued functioning. The militarisation trains its need for women but provides the motivation and support for the continuation of militarism; Cynthia Enloe contends that therefore it is in the military's interest to reinforce the role of women as mother, prostitute, wife and nurse. Militarisation need women — but they need women to behave as the gender 'women'. This always requires the exercise of control. Military officials, and allies in civilian elites have wrenched their power to perpetuate those gendered power dynamics that sustain the military's power. That is what is sticking in the eye of someone who wants to redefine our lives as the military's prostitutes, rape victims, secretaries, nurses, social workers, mothers, and welfare defence workers and mothers.

Cynthia Enloe traces the lives of militar­ised women from the Crimea to present: military bases at Sabah Bay in the Philippines and Portsmouth in England. She identifies the way in which women are always used by the military, whether as unpaid nurses and laundresses or as prisoners of war in Crimean and American Civil War, as women or as unpaid workers in the electronic factories in the Philippines and Sabah Bay.

An area which has special significance concerns the women who work in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in Third World countries. Industry is attracted to EPZs by the promise of cheap, docile female labour. Most of the firms attracted to the EPZs are elec­

and blood tests. Clinical ecology diagnosis, the symptoms again are identified as the person as a collection of health hazards. Some chemicals, like formaldehyde, are involved in a range of domestic air pollution. It will not offer a standard mass-applicable approach, as X's symptoms seem to disappear, but may return in the form of more general­

selves either have direct military application such as the USA, to whom they give air bases. They work on products which them­

militarism is to examine the supporting military institutions. Cutting military budgets and reducing military manpower are not just a historical and social understanding of militarism and the framework for future action.
Penang flipside

Members of Friends of the Earth and the Consumers Association of Penang took delegates attending a recent seminar on the Malaysian environment on a tour of the island of Penang. Apart from the obvious Westernization of Penang - the 'Miami Beach' tourist complex, the 'Hollywood' restaurant - there are less obvious signs of the rush to 'develop', Linda Cavicutt, a journalist with the Food Justice Centre in Melbourne reports.

This is a glimpse of the other side of paradise. It's Penang, the pearl of the Orient, but it's not the Penang you will see in the Malaysian Airways in-flight magazine or any travel brochure.

It's the Penang where a school was built in the shadow of the airport then abandoned because one accident could have meant disaster for the children.

It's the Penang of a half-finished concrete fly-over linking nothing with nowhere. Built, according to locals, to impress overseas visitors en route from the airport.

And it's the Penang of a new bridge and coastal highway development that will displace thousands of fisher people and their families and duplicate the existing ferry service to the mainland.

In 1980 the first phase of the coastal highway was built. It was a rough 'bund' lying between the sea and fishing villages. The bund has cut off the villages from easy access to the water and caused the water around their villages to stagnate.

Fisherman Ramli Ismail said his fish catch had dropped dramatically since the road went through. 'We can still eat, but the catch gets less and less', he said.

The traditional fishing villages are doomed by the coastal highway. Their watery surrounds will be filled in and residents will be housed in two-bedroom flats, removed from their livelihood, their heritage. Residents have formed themselves into associations to fight the highway but their chances of success are slim.

The government shelved the coastal highway project earlier this year because funds had run out. Observers say it will be dusted off and put into action again as soon as money is available. In the meantime the villagers live with stagnant water and the rubbish that builds up by the banks of stage one of the coastal highway.

Further down the road is a settlement of boat builders. Like the fishermen they will lose access to their livelihood when the highway goes through. South west of Penang another fishing village is under threat, this time from government inaction.

About 10 years ago the government moved a community of pig farmers to the village from a site near the proposed airport. The air strip was going ahead; the pig farmers had to go.

There was no existing waste disposal system for the pig farmers at the village. They discharged the waste into the ocean. Ten years later the bubbling, gaseous river leading from the pig farms to the sea gives off a nauseating stench that envelopes the village from dawn to dusk. The 70 Muslims at Gertak Sanggul find the pig stench particularly odious. There is friction between the farmers and other villagers.

The village used to be renowned for its prawns; not any more. Fisherpeople complain that the white wood of their boats is black with slime after one day's fishing.

The organised chaos of the boat yards, villages from easy access to the water and caused the water around their villages to stagnate.

Goats eat the garbage that builds up around the banks of the coastal highway bund.
Why not join us?
The Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Coordinating Committee in New South Wales is seeking individuals, small groups and organisations to affiliate as sponsors.
NFIP issues include: French nuclear weapon testing; radioactive waste dumping; militarisation and nuclearisation of the Pacific; independence movements and self-determination for indigenous peoples.
Individuals are welcome to join task groups, to develop and maintain a resource centre, to work on a bimonthly newsletter and to plan and coordinate an educational program.
Meetings are held at the NFIP Resource Centre, 5th Floor, 262 Pitt St, Sydney. Tel: (02) 267 2462 (bh), (02) 90 3214 (ah).
Sponsorship fees: $30 organisations; $15 small groups and individuals; $10 concession. Subscription to the newsletter is included in the fee.
Other NFIP groups can be contacted on: (03) 376 1993 (Melbourne); (07) 229 8585 (Brisbane); (08) 267 2125 (Adelaide); and (003) 31 8406 (Launceston).