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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 as we do not have sufficient resources to return manuscripts. These few guidelines help in bringing out the magazine better and faster.
Effect of disagreement

I dunno. I mean, I like this broad left coalition stuff, but... well, It looks like a lot of people are using it as a chance to wheel out their barrows and missing the point completely. As I see it, three things are required to build left: Discussion. No goals. No need to agree. Just good listening. We'll probably learn a lot. Linking up. Finding areas of agreement. Developing links between groups. Building friendships. Eventually, networks, coalitions. Action. Heaps of it. And just as varied as it now. Just more effective.

I reckon these three things have to be happening concurrently. In fact, they overlap. No one of them should be seen as a higher priority than the others. Although, some areas may require more work than others.

What we are talking about with this broad left stuff is building unity. How to convince the grassroots (like me) that the political lobbies are actually comrades and we can unite our struggle (maybe without even drastically changing how we work). The left is composed of a huge spectrum of tactics and styles, and that’s fine. Wonderful, in fact. Unity, I reckon, doesn’t require agreement. But agreement does help to strengthen unity. It is vital if we are to avoid working against each other. Most people can talk about that. What’s not generally recognised is how important it is to agree to disagree. That’s why most of the broad left initiatives so far won’t satisfactorily fulfill the need for discussion. They will be attempting to build agreement. Before we can agree, we need to be able to listen well to each other, and the best way to do that is by making agreement a low priority.

An example: During a meeting of the Campaign Against PADEX (C.A.P.) group, we were trying to reach agreement on something real.2 Poor listening, lack of trust—we were a mess. Well, all we got was more arguing and a break. We started chatting about our various positions. And there was something in the tea break structure, and the fact that we weren’t all singing along over the RMIT staff lounge (not huddled around a table), that meant that we could listen to other people. This was a tea break, and we didn’t have to do anything special, so it was OK if people were saying things we thought were silly. Well, we ended up agreeing. In mid tea break. It was embarrassing. In the cold light of the morning, the most terrifying thing the left can do now is have a go at each other. Getting away from the discussion of the work of building agreement. What I would like to see is an ongoing series of discussion nights, open to anyone, to enable a wider audience, for instance, to listen to and hopefully understand what the Socialist Left of the ALP is up to, and vice versa. And the rest. A kind of forum, where we could have a go at understanding and accepting the ideologies of our comrades. Oh, we’d get some real head-bang arguments. But what fun, knowing that when the night was over it really wouldn’t matter who won. But our understanding of leftish ideas would be just a little broader.

I’m interested in starting something like this in Melbourne. Anyone wanting to work with me, or just has a chat about it, please get in touch.

Neil Haybrents, Thornbury, Vic.

The NDP and the Democrats

You devoted a great deal of space to the Nuclear Disarmament Party (NDP) in your September edition, and rightly so, since all our activity culminates in legislation. Yet we already have a party in Parliament doing every­thing the NDP promises, plus a great deal of work in "conventional" conservation as well. Why does this party gain no recognition whatsoever in your pages? Why do you give so much encouragement to those who promise, but none to those who deliver? And if you are unaware of these activities (which would be amazing, given the high standard of research in your articles), a request to Senator Chipp to keep you informed would result in a flood of press releases and position papers pouring into your letter box.

I enclose for an example a copy of Chipp’s report to his state council; note that pride of place is given to the anti­nuclear campaign, and that the criticism of the media on the language used applies to no less than the capitalist press. So please, how about at least the occasional mention of what the Democrats are doing, as well as what the NDP are, rather than being merely plethora.

Alvia Reid
FOE (Ride)

PAXED

In Chain Reaction 44 you ran a story about the cancellation of the 1986 PADEX Nuclear Area Defence Equipment Exhibition. PADEX was in Darwin during the week of maximum controversy, when the Territory government decided to go ahead with PADEX going ahead.

In August against PADEX going ahead, I also urged that the peace movement should be attempting to make an alternative positive proposal. The peace move­ment is easily characterised by the mass media as being opposed to something—it is necessary also to make constructive proposals.

The peace movement should propose to the Territory government, business interests and the Trades and Labor Council that there be a joint working party to examine the conversion of the Territory's military facilities to civilian use. It is a short-sighted policy to count on defence expend­iture. Doing a "safe" stand of the Northern Territory's interests is in the best interests of the Northern Territory.

Even if all the parties refuse to go ahead, it should still be possible for the peace move­ment to find some allies in this venture. The venture will demonstrate that the peace movement is concerned about local opportunities. There are various overseas studies to guide how the Northern Territory one could be carried out.

Getting PADEX cancelled is not the half of the task. The other half of the task has got to be started. Paul Murrell
President, United Nations Association of Australia (WMA)

Wildlife management

In Papua New Guinea (PNG) a special system of wildlife con­servation has been developed. The system is not often a viable proposition because of the lack of grazing land (98% of land in PNG is basically owned). Instead use the Dept. of Environment and Conservation assists in the establishment of Wildlife Man­agement areas. Local people themselves initiate the move and approach the Department requesting the establishment of a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Three years of prepara­tion are needed in setting up a WMA. An inventory of species is taken, land rights must be established, rules for the running of the WMA agreed on, boundaries established and a commit­tee of local people appointed. People do not need to be coerced into measures to conserve their wildlife. The area coming for­ward at such a fast rate that the Department, with only three officers to cover the whole country, is in the process of forming 20 WMA’s. Not enough. Neil Huybregts

Disaster at Dutton Downs

Gippsland supporters with march in protest

The world is likely to heat up by at least 1°C and perhaps by 5°C by the year 2000, because of the combined "greenhouse effect" of many trace gases. The US National Academy of Sciences has reported this concern in a National Research Council report, which contained seven key issues: there is a chance that some of the chemical greenhouse effects of the atmosphere may be increased by the effects of other gases and radiation. The US National Research Council has reported that these effects are significant. At a meeting of the US National Academy of Sciences it was reported that the evidence for this hypothesis is still inconclusive.

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Problems at Ranger

Major operating problems contin­ue at the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory. After a series of radioactive water leaks this year, mine workers have now begun an indefinite strike following a major leak of sulphur dioxide gas on 4 March. Over 20 workers were affected.

The Miscellaneous Workers Union and the Australian Society of Engineers, who cover the on-site workers, called a series of 24-hour stoppages, and called for independent consultants to prepare a safety report and for legal assurances from the owners, Energy Resources Australia (ERA), that it would act on any recommendations. The lack of response resulted in an indefinite strike.

Deficiencies in safety procedure were further highlighted when fire broke out as production continued with staff labour. ERA refused to acknowledge any problems. It is presenting the dispute in terms of the union's claim for extended superannuation and completely ignored the fire risk and later fire. ERA on 21 March granted a supreme court injunction by the Northern Territory Court which specifies 'induced breach of contract'. Meanwhile members of the two unions continue to picket the mine site and a shipment of 27 containers of yellowcake intended for loading on the MV Forthbank.

Source: Tribune 19 and 26 March 1986

Lindeman victory

It showed that 69% of Britain's beech and 78% of Britain's yew trees are displaying some signs of rain dieback (14% and 22% respectively, showing advanced dieback) and that there are at least ten other species, including fir, oak, spruce and pine also damaged. The survey, carried out by more than 500 members of the public, indicated that Britain's tree dieback is comparable with that in Germany five or six years ago and the prospects for Britain's forest is bleak. The report concludes that pollution episodes magnify the effects of natural stresses, such as droughts and frosts, but air pollution is the only common denominator in any explanation of this damage to Britain's trees.

The report makes several recommendations for further research, including a national emergency tree survey this year by government and non-government bodies, and more support for the Forestry Commission, cooperating with voluntary groups and specialists. It is recommended that there should be an immediate programme of controls to reduce emissions of SO2 and NO2 from power stations and cars should be fitted with converters to meet US-style emission standards to reduce emissions of hydrocarbons and NOx.

Copies of the Survey are available from Chain Reaction.

Source: Chain Reaction

The Thames is better

A report in Nature, the journal of the European Information Centre for Nature Conservation makes the surprising claim that the tidal Thames, London, is the 'cleanest metropolitan estuary in the world'. Findings show that 90% of the water in the Thames estuary is 'free from oil, and indicators show that the 270,000 million litres of contaminated industrial waste water are poured into the river. In all cases, dilutions are that the 12,000 million litres (at least) that have been deposited in the Sarnia area, some in sixteen deep wells, some in two salt caverns, are welling up. Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment continue to assess the extent of the contamination and to explore its sources. They have promised to put more stringent controls on the discharge of toxic substances into the river.

Source: Bulletin of the Australian Environmental Society, PO Box 49, Menora, Qld 4105

Water please!

American scientists have been switching electronic gadgets to plants and listening to the noises made when they are parched. The sounds are inaudible to the human ear, but can be converted electronically into alarm calls. The scientists, from the US Department of Agriculture, say the research was aimed at helping farmers know when their crops need water, but the idea could be adapted for house use. Your houseplants may soon be able to wake you up at night by calling for a drink!

Kingston, NY 12401

Having their say

'Having a Say' is a training booklet which explains the principles of genuine industrial democracy. It tells unions through the arguments of why democracy at work, who gets involved, unions' needs and rights, the potential pitfalls and has a practical emphasis on how to develop a genuine industrial democracy process.

Booklet $5 available from Labour Resource Centre, PO Box 62, Carlton South, Vic. 3053. Tel: (03) 462 8444

Democracy at work

A six-week peace camp was set up on 2 May at Bristol Point on the south side of Jarvis Bay. The campers organised a support campaign to oppose the development plans and work­ers were held to share know­ledge and skills.

Contact: Peace Camp, PO Box 135, Nowra, NSW 2541 (SAE please)

Peace Camp

A survey released in November last year by Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment showed that industry reports an average of 17.7 000 million litres of contaminated industrial waste water are poured into the river. In all cases, dilutions are that the 12,000 million litres (at least) that have been deposited in the Sarnia area, some in sixteen deep wells, some in two salt caverns, are welling up. Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment continue to assess the extent of the contamination and to explore its sources. They have promised to put more stringent controls on the discharge of toxic substances into the river.

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Having their say
**Apartheid declaration**

The Fremanville City Council on 21 March 1986 — United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination—declared its abhorrence of, and its firm opposition to, the apartheid regime of South Africa. In place of the City of Namibia, condemning the apartheid laws and practices or any entourage that has performed in South Africa.

- Support local community groups or organisations in their efforts directed towards ending apartheid and racial injustice elsewhere.
- Also included in the declaration is the City’s recognition of the need for the protection of national, ethnic and indigenous minorities within the City of Fremantle. This includes the recognition of the need for the distribution of public funds for the promotion of the economic, cultural and social development of the minorities, and also to take steps to prevent the loss of indigenous territory where necessary and feasible.

**EARTH NEWS**

**Apartheid declaration**

**Parambular transport**

Over the past twelve months the Trade Union Unemployment Centre has been assisting Tony Beal to set up a motor platform for a wheelchair. Called the Parambarul, it would be slightly bigger than a motobike, with the rear section having a hydraulic ramp, the lift and exit of a wheelchair and occupant. Support and encouragement for Tony’s idea have come from the Disability Resource Centre, the Unions’ Committee at both the Government Aircraft Factory and Williamstown Naval Dockyard, the Economic and Employment Unit at Melbourne City Council and the Centre for Innovation and Development at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Tony is seeking financial assistance to build a prototype. He has prepared a questionnaire on the transport needs of disabled people, as part of a feasibility study and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in assisting research and development of the concept.

Contact: Peter Green, Trade Union Unemployment Centre, 54 Victoria Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000. Tel 03/686 5181.

**Close the Cape in ’88**

The 21 year lease agreement in respect of North-West Cape signed in 1967 by the US and Australia will expire in 1988. The agreement will then enter a new phase when either party will have 180 days notice to the other to terminate the agreement.

At the 1985 ALP National Congress the Foreign Minister Bill Hayden announced that if he could be convinced that the North West Cape had a first strike capability he would close the base. In The Australian, 12 February 1986, the Minister for Resources and Energy, Senator Evans for the Minister of Defence announced that the government had stood by this promise.

With the imminent deployment of Trident II missiles, 1988 would be an appropriate time for Australia to terminate the base agreement and close the base. To do this it is necessary to mobilise public opinion and encourage the government to choose this course of action. One step in that direction is the ALP National Congress to be held in July this year. Conference delegates from Western Australia have not yet been appointed but when announced they need to be contacted and made fully aware of the issues before casting their vote.

Contact: Fremantle People for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament and Scientists Against Arms. Tel: (09) 332 2274 or (09) 332 9648.

**Away with asbestos**

It has been reported that the South Australian government has set an example to other states in taking the initiative on asbestos removal. New regulations under the Work Health and Safety Act 1972 have set a clear priority for the safe removal and disposal of asbestos, as opposed to the less costly options of sealing and encapsulation that are favoured by many building owners and employers.

Regulation 16(1) states that ‘no person shall cause or permit installed thermal or acoustic insulating materials which consist of or contain asbestos to be sealed’. This complete ban on the sealing of asbestos material is accompanied by a ban on the occurrence or encapsulation of asbestos material without the written permission of the Head of the Department of Labour. This can only be obtained after a辐射Asbestos Inspection Committee has recommended that asbestos removal is not practicable in a particular situation. It should be noted that these regulations apply only to asbestos thermal or acoustic insulating materials (eg pipe lagging) and not asbestos fibro-cement products.

The regulations clearly establish asbestos removal as the central priority in the South Australian Government’s strategy to eliminate asbestos. Removal contractors must be licenced.

**IYP launch**

International Year of Peace (IYP) was launched by Ian Carty, Victorian Minister for Education in the City Square, Melbourne, 27 January 1986. Children from Melbourne schools, community theatre groups, the band Bush Whazee and passers by all joined in the celebrations, singing, dancing and generally enjoying themselves.

Cattle presented cheques to six unions, including Young People for Nuclear Disarmament, Movement Against Uranium Mining and Friends of the Earth. The Australian Initiative for IYP has been formed to co-ordinate a peace day on 25 October 1986 in Melbourne.

**Rush to irradiate**

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved bactericidal spices and seasoning treatments which are sold without explanation labels. Kathryn M. Tucker, President of the Health and Energy Institute, said that the US federal government wants to take garbage from its nuclear weapons production program and use it for food irradiation, a convenient way of using up cesium-137, a by­product of nuclear reactors.

In Malaysia, food irradiation promotion exercises were begun in April 1985 through workshops organised by the Nuclear Energy Unit of the Prime Minister’s Department. The workshops centred on the consumer’s desire for fresh food in its original form. A paper from a one-day Malaysian-Canadian seminar disclosed that frozen shrimps are likely to be among the first food products to be commercially irradiated in Malaysia.

Proper studies into irradiation technology, particularly in the region, are needed before food irradiation is boost the American government to export its nuclear wastes to Third World countries.

Consumers in the USA are already eating unlabelled irradiated food without knowing it.

Pollution probe

Pollution Probe, Toronto, Canada, will be releasing a publication in May 1986 based on material presented to a two­day conference on IYP launch

**Playing with fire**

The Consumers Association of Penang, Malaysia, in a recent meeting with the Minister of Health, said that the accumulation and disposal of radioactive waste poses a problem for the USA and claim that the US Department of Energy’s support for irradiation technology for food preservation is only a decry to allow the US government to export its nuclear wastes to Third World countries.

Consumers in the USA are already eating unlabelled irradiated food without knowing it.

Several examples of excavating hazardous waste sites were given. In almost all cases these wastes were transported to another landfill and re-buried; this procedure viewed by many conference participants as just delaying the problem. Using the dumpsites along the Niagara River as a model, they detailed the costs and consequences of three strategies for responding to the problems created by these sites: taking no action; containment; and removal and thermal destruction. It was determined that in the long term when all costs were considered, the least costly and most effective option is removal and destruction.

Sources: *Inquirer*, February 1986, *Friends of the Earth, Ottawa, Ontario,* and *Environment Defense Fund in Washington DC was attended by approximately 120 people before government from disposal; the waste management industry, consulting firms and environmental organisations.*
Friends of the Earth’s entire existence rests upon getting convincing, well researched ideas to as many people as possible.

To do that FOE needs people and resources. You are invited to join us directly in this work, and to give financial support — by becoming active, joining up as a FOE member and urging others to generously support the organisation.

One of the best things about FOE is its unending sense of optimism. It approaches issues from as positive an angle as possible. It confronts and seeks solutions to what are literally some of the most daunting environmental, social and political threats faced by human beings.

Friends of the Earth is currently facing a severe financial crisis. It could be forced to bring into operation a ‘razor-gang-style’ slash of important activities. Many of our hopes are pinned on encouraging more people to join FOE, to give time and/or money to maintain and boost the work.

If you think this is worthwhile work and want it to continue, please help bring into FOE more people. Let us know what you think of what we are doing, and how you can become a part of it.

In Oakleigh there exists a 14 ha strip of heathland, part of the ancient heath that once spread across Melbourne’s sandbelt region. Over the years there have been several proposals to develop this land, such as an old people’s home and in 1984 a soccer ground, to add to the existing soccer ground in the area. FOE Oakleigh, along with other local groups, campaigned successfully to halt the development of this remnant of Melbourne’s flora. The heath now seems secure. A Grange Heathland Advisory Committee is surveying the area and taking measures to protect it from public abuse.

FOE Oakleigh has also been campaigning for animal rights. When Perry’s circus, complete with animals, visited Oakleigh recently FOE Oakleigh approached the local council over the issue. In response to this, the council resolved to formulate a policy on circuses and also voiced its opposition to the proposed $18m dolphinarium in neighbouring Springvale.

FOE Oakleigh has also successfully campaigned to have Oakleigh declared a Nuclear Free Zone, despite the local federal MP, Joan Childs, being aggressively unsympathetic.

Politically, FOE Oakleigh believes there is a need for a Greens Party with a strong philosophical constitution and a spiritual, though not religious, base. They believe that we need to learn more from indigenous peoples such as the Aboriginals, the Pacific Islanders and the American Indians. At present they believe that the Australian Democrats are our best pragmatic option but they find their union-bashing unacceptable.

FOE Oakleigh, 69 Waratah St, South Oakleigh, Vic 3166
Sydney

The bulk of FOE Sydney's work is taken up with running a comprehensive resource centre: running endless lobbying letters on a multitude of issues. People representing FOE work with many groups including the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Coordinating Committee, the Sydney Peace Squadron, the Inner Sydney Regional Transport Group, and the South-East Forest Alliance (a coalition of environment groups fighting to halt the woodchip industry based at Eden). At our request, FOE Japan produced a useful report on the end use of Australian woodchips in Japan.

Jan Ardill worked consistently on transport related issues in Sydney (see 'Laurie goes for Lorries', Chain Reaction 44). Her work included radio interviews, submissions on the Eastern Distributor Expressway and fighting the monorail, an amusement park style project masquerading as public transport to be plonked on Sydney streets despite widespread opposition.

Towards the end of 1985 some FOE people formed an ad hoc group to work on submissions to a Commission of Inquiry into electricity generation in NSW. Like most states, NSW has a large over-capacity of electricity. The bulk of this comes from large coal-fired plants and there are plans for several more plus proposals for hydro-electric dams, some in wilderness areas. FOE's submissions stressed soft energy options such as energy conservation as well as the need to develop an energy strategy based on matching the most ecologically sound and cost effective energy source to a given end use.

FOE Sydney prepared other submissions during the year including comments on Food Prone Land Policy, the Eastern Distributor Expressway, recycling, and the Tasmanian Woodchip Environmental Impact Statement. We will be giving this work a lower priority during 1986 as we are sceptical of the value of detailed submissions. We welcome all interested self-motivated people to work on the resource centre, the issues mentioned or any related issues in which they are interested.

FOE Sydney, Floor 2, 787 George St, Sydney, NSW 2000, Tel: (02) 211 3953.

Diamond Valley

Diamond Valley is a group of about 60 people with a small active core. This year it will concentrate on helping the South Eastern Forest Alliance, saving the Otways forest and working on a bus to tour Australia promoting peace and the environment.

In 1985 FOE Diamond Valley lobbied against Project Sparrow at the Watsonia Army Barracks, handing out leaflets on their open day. It also collected signatures for a petition about the Daintree rain forest, lobbied against the proposed dolphinarium and campaigned for the Victorian Alpine National Park.

Locally it managed to get the peace issue into the local press by organising a display of peace posters in the local library. All the posters in the display were by local school children.

FOE Diamond Valley has a bi-monthly newsletter on local and international issues and holds regular information get-togethers. In June there will be a peace and environment night and in July a film and discussion on electro-magnetic radiation.

FOE Diamond Valley, PO Box 295, Eltham, Vic. 3065. Tel: (03) 435 9160.

Ryde

Ryde Friends of the Earth was started in 1977 by Ian Boetcher, who became intensely interested in the consequences of uranium and radioactive waste material after being wrongly arrested by the police. For Ian was an innocent bystander at a demonstration trying to stop the loading of yellow-cake at the Balmain docks. He found himself asking many questions of his own and what he was doing against the export of uranium, and he decided to become active and alert people to the dangers of nuclear waste. He started a group of Friends of the Earth in his home area. Ryde. Ian died of leukaemia in 1980, aged twenty.

Ryde FOE has since been involved in many aspects of the nuclear issue. They have pressed for balance in the debate by presenting the Education Department to place anti-nuclear material in school libraries to inform the pro-nuclear-material already present. They also objected to a proposal for a nuclear power station at the Port of Melbourne. FOE Ryde has held stalls.

Members of Ryde FOE also discovered drains carrying radioactive waste from a CSIRO complex through Lane Cove and emptying into the sewerage system.

Ryde FOE has held stalls, displays, an alternative energy fair and has lent its support to local environment groups. Recently others of the group became part of a Peace Coordinating Committee which represents eleven groups. These groups are working to promote peace education at the grass roots level.

A video film is also in the planning stage. After sorting out priorities, material, evidence and data a professional technician will be approached to handle production.

FOE Ryde, 18 Kokoda St, North Ryde, NSW 2113.

Sydney peace squadron in action in Sydney harbour.
Marching for peace

In the time it takes for us to hold this rally about $400 million will be spent for military purposes. In the same time 3 000 children will die of hunger.

An estimated 320 000 people marched in Australia: 130 000 in Sydney; 100 000 in Melbourne; 30 000 in Adelaide; 20 000 each in Brisbane and Perth, 2 000 in Hobart and thousands more in Canberra, Darwin, Alice Springs, Albury Wodonga, Launceston, Wollongong and dozens of other towns in New South Wales...

'It drew in many new people, particularly young people, for whom this was the first step towards greater involvement. A new development was schools, marching under their own banners, sometimes against the wishes of their school hierarchies. These included girls-only schools. Many people joined PND immediately afterwards.'

'The rally is everybody's. Regarding the anarchist action: 'I get a little sick of right-wing parasites on bridges disrupting the march. I believe in direct action in the right place, but not knee jerk attention seeking. They didn't really expect other people's rights.' Richard Bolt, an organiser of the rally.

In the sun on the Land Rights flag as a balloon was quite offensive. 

Regarding the anarchist action: 'bland calls for non-violent action, join the ALP or the Democrats or the Liberals and the inevitable peace, children, futures and flowers came over everybody could see!'

Final scenario...

The big march appeared to expel the anarchists. Naughty, naughty, too rowdy and not marching neatly behind the big Palm Sunday banner, which everybody is supposed to do (except the police). The anarchists free at last, took off down the street, black flags flying high and chanting 'The People United Will Never Be Defeated.'

In Swanston St...

they spot the 40ft Pro-Anzus banner hanging off Princes Bridge. That was enough! The anarchists took off up the stairs to the 'well agree to anything Reagan says' rally. Pro-Anzus placards soon went flying, the 400ft banner was ripped down fast. The Pro-Anzus speaker shouted into his mike 'star wars could never be an act of aggression'. The anarchists certainly got to the root of the problem fast.

URANIUM? LAND RIGHTS?

We were very angry that a pro-uranium speaker, such as the ACTU secretary Bill Kelly, was allowed to address a rally which was supposed to promote peace and oppose uranium mining. Kelty has been a Hawke supporter for many years. He even spoke to Hawke's proposal to destroy the ACTU's anti-uranium policy in the late 70s. Many of our members were very upset by his inclusion. Are we to take this as an indication of PND's future stand on the uranium issue?

We would also like to register a protest over PND's handling of the Land Rights issue. We believe that it is time that environmental and peace groups fundamentally assessed their attitude and commitment to aboriginal rights. We have been making some approaches to the Koori Information Centre in Fitzroy and were most angered by PND's lack of consultation with the Koories, especially over the use of their flag on the poster. The graphic used—with the sun on the Land Rights flag as a balloon—was quite offensive.

We believe that it would be disastrous if the peace/anti-nuclear movement took up a patronalistic fashion as in the past or as an attachment to a peace/anti-nuclear campaign.

Anarchists' arrests as 'that unfortunate incident'...

On to the gardens...

where, arriving a bit late due to police problems at Princes Bridge, they spot the Liberal placards—'Peace through Anzus'. Red flag to a bull! Off trot some anarchists and the Liberal placards disappeared very quickly out of view. Then it was spontaneous combustion time. Burn the banner! So with fire in their eyes, anarchists plus an extremely long Pro-Anzus banner, wound their way to the front of the stage, lined themselves up at the side and at the appropriate gap in proceedings (after prayers), walked in, set themselves up in a large circle and gleefully started ripping the banner to shreds!

Meanwhile...

one Anarchist hopped on stage, hassled for the mike, got it and two telematic minutes (democracy?), in which he informed the rally of the three anarchists arrested at the Pro-Anzus demo and urged the rally to support them! But the microphone was quickly repossessed by a peace official, who apologised (for what?) and continually referred to the anarchists' arrests as 'that unfortunate incident'...

Final scenario...

circle of happy anarchists throwing the shredded Pro-Anzus banner into a burning pile in the dirt, amid lots of positive noise. Officials on stage looked worried—this action was not on the agenda! Bland calls for non-violent action, join the ALP or the Democrats or the Liberals and the inevitable peace, children, futures and flowers came over the PA system for the next half hour. Fairy floss overdose to anarchist ears!

PS—soon hordes of police arrived and...

PPS—Helen Caldicott did attempt to show the rally a long long picture of lots and lots of little bombs hope everybody could see!

Editors footnote

The three anarchists arrested have been charged with resisting arrest and assaulting police. PND did eventually get a lawyer down to Russell St police station to help out.

Freida Black

12 Chain Reaction Chain Reaction 13
The future of the alternative and left movements were discussed at two conferences held in Sydney this Easter. At the NSW Institute of Technology the Broad Left Conference discussed the emergence of a more extreme and confident right wing and how the left in Australia can effectively meet this challenge. Meanwhile at Sydney University the Getting Together Conference attempted to show the contrasts between the various facets of the alternative movement in Australia and to find ways of using our common ideals to strengthen mutual support. Jonathan Goodfield reports on the outcomes of the Broad Left Conference and Ian Foleyota discusses Getting Together.

The political direction of the movement was also a topic of much discussion over the weekend. The formation of a Green Party, based on a certain extent on the European Greens, was one of the hot topics. The party would function at all levels, from local to national, and would be working within the proposed ACCO. As such it would effectively be the political arm of the coalition working through it to publicise and disseminate information and ideas. Getting Together

Alternative economics must be a central concern of any ongoing process. A high priority was given to the promotion of ethical investment and alternative financial structures, growth and tithing and widespread support of existing ethical investment initiatives, pointing out that while in part this may oppose such things as uranium mining we are unwittingly supporting it through banks such as the ANZ investing our money in such ventures. Getting Together

An important aspect of the conference was the Getting Together process that it be an ongoing process. A task force was formed to work on the coordination and rules for a Getting Together Futures Congress, responsible for the production of a newsletter, to organise future conferences and to organise regional meetings of people interested in the Getting Together process. The Congress is an umbrella identity to be utilised by any variety of groups with differing themes, guided by the Congress credo and principles which focus on social change for a sustainable and equitable society.

Problems

One of the problems associated with the Getting Together process, and one which highlights the complexity of the conference, is that of having equal representation of all concerned. The groups in Australia working towards an alternative society there are many interests that were not discussed or considered as wide-ranging. The issues facing migrants, the unemployed, the homeless, the poor and many others were not considered in the agenda or in any of the workshops.

The overall emphasis on green issues meant that a great deal was lacking. Getting Together should not mean looking at the green agenda as being at all, but the economic and social aspects as well. The Green Party must do more itself to get together with the other movements for social change rather than let them come to it. It must realise that a Green Party can only be effective if it is structured, is not the party of the social change movement, that such a party needs to be aligned with people in the society who want to see a society that is not of one colour.

For further information about the ongoing work of the Congress write to: Getting Together, 130 Davey St, Hobart Tas. 7000.

Ian Foleyota is a member of the Chain Reaction collective.
Bases of exploitation

By Gwen Gibbon

I began to ask myself ten years ago — how come I’m going out blessing dead babies every day, it’s ridiculous, we have to get to the root cause of this.

Father Shea Cullen of PREDA

Father Shea Cullen is a Columbian priest who has been working for the past sixteen years in the Philippines at Olongapo, the service town of Subic Bay Naval Base. Along with six Filipino community workers, he runs a drug rehabilitation and human development centre called PREDA which overlooks the base. Father Cullen works with the ‘marginal people’ of Olongapo — the displaced people whose villages were demolished to make way for the base, squatters, prostitutes, tribal Filipinos and drug abusers.

Subic Bay is primarily viewed internationally in terms of nuclear war, but currently social effects of its presence are also of grave concern. Before World War II, Olongapo was a small fishing village but it expanded rapidly since the installation of the Base immediately prior to the Cold War. Today Olongapo’s population stands at 255 000 and its economy is entirely dependent on the US Navy. The Base also houses four schools, three golf courses and a medical station. The Base also houses four schools, three golf courses and a medical station.

Subic Bay Naval Base is the largest US naval facility outside mainland USA. It is the home port of the US Carrier Task Force which has a major impact on the local economy. The Base is a logistics facility covering 25 000 hectares, which overlooks the base. Father Cullen and his PREDA co-workers have been actively working with the people most affected by the Subic Bay Naval Base for many years now. Despite the label ‘homeless’, the orphans and homeless children are a refuge for many. Despite the base, Manila a refuge has been set up to provide legal assistance and health advice to women who have been adversely affected by military personnel. As yet there is no local group which has taken on a similar role in Olongapo.

The dependence of the local population on the Base and the Rest and Recreation is entirely based on servicing the US Navy.

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Aboriginal people as resources. Hence Arnhem Land, which has no cattle potential, has been relatively undisturbed on both social and ecological levels and constitutes a very valuable cultural and natural resource.

Mining interests pose a new threat to the integrity of Aboriginal land. Proposed changes to the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act will make it much more difficult for Aboriginal people to resist mining developments on their land, should they choose to do so. The conservation movement must take a much higher profile in the campaign to prevent loss of the already incomplete mining veto.

Aboriginal freehold title to land offers a resource from exploitation should traditional land owners wish to be undisturbed. Unfortunately, the prevailing economic system does not recognize non-use as a legitimate form of land management and tends to pressure people towards productive/development/harvest of land. Many Aboriginal people are inexperienced about the services required to prevent or mitigate degradation of accompanying development, and are not adequately informed of consequences by proponents of schemes. This is not particularly different in non-Aboriginal communities, but the Aboriginal land the loss of resources may be more severe.

Where traditional knowledge about the country remains, Aboriginal people have an intimate perception of the workings of ecological systems. Some conservationists blame aspects of the Aboriginal lifestyle such as hunting and burning for the over-exploitation of native species, and use this as an excuse to preclude Aboriginal involvement in nature conservation and preservation. In most instances, the real cause of declining pastoralism, commercial fishing and the invasion by feral animals, are not highlighted.

In the Top End, two major national parks, Kakadu and Gunlom, exist on Aboriginal land and a third, Katherine Gorge, is under claim. There is no indication that formal nature conservation through reservation is incompatible with Aboriginal freehold title. The main problem has been a reluctance on the part of the government management authorities to include traditional owners more positively in the management process.

**Recommendation**

A positive approach to Aboriginal issues must be made by conservationists. Sensible and proper land management by Aboriginal people is the norm rather than the exception as a land ethic has been part of Aboriginal tradition and culture for thousands of years. The conservation movement should ensure that Aboriginal communities receive advice about the consequences of proposed developments.

There needs to be a reinterpretation of some traditional green concepts. Wilderness, as it is currently defined, is not appropriate to the present situation in the NT. It may be that there is no wilderness in the NT. This must not overshadow the fact that some of Australia's best natural and cultural resources are effectively reserved and protected on Aboriginal land, and must be vigorously defended by the conservation movement.

Aboriginal land must not be seen to be a competing land tenure with conservation. The two are quite compatible, highlighted at Kakadu and Gunlom. The notion thatпалоо is needed to arise following the Ranger report that all Aboriginal people are pre-mining must be excoriated. Aboriginal communities are heterogeneous in the same way as non-Aboriginal communities. Only the Aboriginal land does the chance to say no to development legally exist. This choice must be maintained. A more rigorous campaign by conservationists to support the retention of the mining veto in the existing NL and rights acts, and to have it reinstated in the WA act should be stepped up.

Conservationists can learn from Aboriginal people and should have open minds, consciously putting preconceptions aside. By approaching Aboriginal people and organisations in all the states and territories, the environment movement can be educated to most effectively wield its considerable power. The Northern Land Council, Central Land Council and other local councils have employed the point where white culture meets Aboriginal interests.

The Prime Minister, Mr Hawke, has tried to justify the government’s backdown on land rights on the basis that the public is not ready to support it. Surveys show public opinion, especially in Western Australia, swinging against Aborigines. The Liberal Party has based its land rights policy on these surveys and the press has accepted them at face value, or in the case of The Australian, portrayed them worse than they really are. Eve Fest looks at these surveys and how they have been presented.

The Australian in its reply to the complaint says that 18% is a small number and justifies the use of the word few. Leaving aside the point that 18% of the Australian population is a large number of people, there is the difficulty that in the largest group of 52% is an unknown number of people who support land rights with reservations, and who cannot be dismissed, as the paper’s argument does, as people who do not support land rights. One might have thought that the endgame of the poll was that the majority of Australians did not have strong views one way or another.

If the decisions on land rights by the Labor and Liberal parties have been based on ‘political expediency’ relying on attitudinal surveys to land rights, then those decisions are incorrect.

A close reading of the published surveys shows that the majority of non-Aboriginal Australians are undecided as to whether to support or oppose land rights. The results of the West Australian election gives no justification for the hysteria into which Premier Burke fell on himself on the land rights issue, and the consequent effect on cabinet decisions.

A report of the opinion poll published in The Australian on 28 August 1985 headed ‘Few support Aboriginal Land Rights’, implying that many were against, showed that whilst 24% were definitely against and 15% definitely for, 52% were undecided. The Australian Press Council upheld a complaint by the South-East Land Council that the headline was misleading. In its adjudication the Press Council reported:

> The Australian in its reply to the complaint says that 18% is a small number and justifies the use of the word few. Leaving aside the point that 18% of the Australian population is a large number of people, there is the difficulty that in the largest group of 52% is an unknown number of people who support land rights with reservations, and who cannot be dismissed, as the paper’s argument does, as people who do not support land rights. One might have thought that the endgame of the poll was that the majority of Australians did not have strong views one way or another.

**Teeling White Lies**

The Press Council upheld that other headlines related to land rights that same week were also misleading. The adjudication stated that the success of headlines consistently reflected the least favorable interpretation from an Aboriginal standpoint.

A report published in The West Australian and commissioned by the Liberal Party was headed "70% oppose land rights — Lib poll". On a closer look, however, it notes that the figure of 70% was arrived at after interviewees were made aware of the implications. A firm commission to obtain accurate results was arriving at conclusions after interviewees were obviously been fed biases to persuade them to answer in a particular direction.

Leaving aside the question of ethical research methods, there is the question that the public and the Liberal Party were given inaccurate information regarding the major outcome of the survey.

Only the results of the WA Chamber of Mines survey was headlined accurately ‘Survey; Divided on Grants Issue’. This survey showed that 45% favoured granting Aborigines land and 45% did not. This survey made a distinction between rights and grants, indicating that whilst half the population has based its land rights position on the giving of the Aborigines land, the question of rights on the other hand was different. A clearer question might be interesting to see how the question was phrased.

Finally, survey results in The Sydney Morning Herald 14 November 1985 headed ‘70% against Aboriginal Caus’ showed in the text that although support had been lost, there were still more sympathisers for the Aboriginal cause than opponents. Accurate results of surveys such as these, it is argued, would be interesting to see how the question was phrased.

Eve Fest is the director of The Aboriginal Research Centre at Monash University.
The Hawke Government has shelved its proposal for national land rights legislation. Its preferred model for legislation tried to compromise between returning the land to the Aborigines and giving it to the mining lobby. It pleased no-one. In the meantime West Australian Aborigines have been given leases to reserves, a weak gesture when vast areas have been taken from them in living memory. In Queensland, Aborigines are finding big slabs have been excised from the reserves that the Bjelke-Petersen Government promised to lease back to them. Deborah Moon examines the weaknesses of the preferred model.

History has 'proved' that the Aborigines lost all right to land because they have not developed it. To the invaders 'development' was a process of dispossession and cultural alienation of Aborigines. For example, colonial authorities, who had been forced to move because of poor facilities and racial tension, such as the community at Lake Nash in the NT, were allowed to claim compensation. There was no safeguard against land being suddenly converted into used or allocated land, as happened in the NT, when the government in 1982 extended the town boundaries of Tennant Creek and Darwin, enlarging the two towns to something like fifty times their original size.

However, for Aborigines, the war is not over and won't be until a true National Land Rights Act is put into effect that recognises the Aborigines' ownership of Australia prior to the invasion of 1770 and provides reasonable compensation. The 1967 referendum gave the Commonwealth Government the power to make laws in the interests of the Aboriginal people. This change gave a glimmer of hope for legal recognition of Land Rights but it was to be nine years before anything positive took place.

In 1968, the Yirrkala people put Australia's first major Aboriginal land dispute, the Gove Land Rights Case, before the Supreme Court. They were seeking to prove the doctrine of 'Communal Native Title'. It took three years before a judgment was handed down. In his decision, Mr Justice Blackburn found that 'Communal Native Title' could not be recognised under Australian Law as it stood.

Deborah Moon is an Education Officer with the Education Dept, Victoria.

In December 1972, the Commonwealth Government froze the allocation of Crown Land in the Northern Territory. This was a holding move until the establishment of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commission, two months later to look at how land rights were to be granted.

In response to the Commission's two reports, the Federal Labor Party introduced Land Rights (NT) Bill in 1975. It was finally passed in 1976 by the Liberal Government as the Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act.

The mining industry realised the potential wealth of the regions claimed under the act including the bauxite at Gove and the uranium at Nabarlek: the wealth in the Northern Territory. This was a glimmer of hope that mineral companies would accept. The mining industry realised the potential wealth of the regions claimed under the act including the bauxite at Gove and the uranium at Nabarlek: the wealth in the Northern Territory. This was a glimmer of hope that mineral companies would accept.

Aboriginal groups objected to the section of the Preferred Model which denies Aboriginal owners the right to veto exploration and mining on their land. They also attacked the provision giving the government the right to administer royalty payments. To quote from the Land Councils' Protection of sacred sites, rejection of mining, and compensation and royalties, will all be subject to the scrutiny of a third party. The government argued that the Crown owned all the minerals and, being accountable to the Australian people, should make final decisions on matters of public interest. This argument runs counter to the United Nations' recognition of indigenous people's rights to self determination and economic independence through land rights.

In the language of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights:

1. All people have the rights of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

1.2 All people may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their own natural wealth and resources... In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

The concept of Land Rights aims to rectify actions perpetrated on Aborigines, such as murder, rape, and ethnocide. It seeks to reverse public policy without recognizing Aborigines as the original owners of Australia, giving them land where they can control their own future. In denying them the right to control mining and compensation, the government has denied the basis of Land Rights.

Jim Strong, spokesperson for the Mining Industry Council has argued that giving Aborigines the right to negotiate with mining companies would cause lengthy delays, as in the Northern Territory, crippling exploration and mining. The mining companies also claim Land Rights would lead to the development of a separate nation and in a form of Apartheid. Statistics show that mineral exploration fell throughout Australia between 1981 and 1983 by 24 per cent. In the NT the downturn was only 20 per cent. It appears the downturn was caused by commercial factors (world market prices etc.) and government decisions (eg. on uranium mining), not by Land Rights legislation.

There is no way to compromise between the interests of white people pursuing wealth, and those of an indigenous people who demand justice and self-determination. Doing so, must put some people's noses out of joint. As the Melbourne "Age" editorial of 18 October 1984 stated:

The Government must be prepared to defend the principle of land rights from silly and shallow attacks, emphasising that land rights are not renegotiations for past guilt but a remedy for a continuing injustice.

One way of achieving this would be to educate the media and, in particular, the Aboriginal people. To promote awareness of Aboriginal culture, needs and aspirations — not only of the traditionally estranged Aborigines, but also the fringe dwellers and urban Aborigines. Obviously it will not change attitudes overnight. Legislation is still required. It must allow for complete self-determination in the ownership of giving land, otherwise there are no rights, just empty promises.

Unfortunately for the mining companies they must learn to realise that they are dealing with a community whose lives are affected by mining activities. Thus they are answerable to these communities.

Surely the Federal government cannot, on the one hand, say that they are giving Aborigines land, and on the other claim that Aboriginals cannot have the right to control and use it. It makes the whole act a token gesture.

It is not a question of satisfying all the objections to the preferred model, but of satisfying one basic principle — Land Rights.
The Victorian government soon to release its Conservation Strategy alongside its Economic and Justice Strategy. The development of the Conservation Strategy has involved not only building bridges but to begin to think about the structure of consumption.

The Victorian government's Conservation Strategy has evolved into a clear and articulate document that provides an insight into current departmental thinking. However, it fundamentally fails. It remains inarticulate. In economics, strategy is committed to increases in per-capita income. The basic argument of this article is that until we change our current consumption lifestyles, the demands for more coal, oil, agricultural lands, timber, buildings, dam will continue until the last river has been consumed irrespective of environmental resistance movements. Until the growth in consumption per head is stopped and appropriate patterns of consumption are developed, any conservation strategy, however well intentioned, is unsustainable and contributes to the demise of the public the way in which that needs to be done is being done. This article considers firstly the need for demand management, secondly it examines the issue of strategies for its implementation, and thirdly concludes with a comment on working towards a conserving society.

Promoting consumption. Our society is organised to promote high levels of consumption. There are a number of elements to this, such as the design of the relations between producing and consuming units so that there is efficiency of production on the one hand and maximum need to consume on the other. This is achieved through decreasing the size of consuming units, so that fewer people constitute the consuming unit. This is basic to the maximisation of throughput by duplication and competition and to the environmental inefficiency of the structure of consumption.

Consumption is further promoted by the separation of components of one's world into a number of different and separate worlds increasing the dependence of the individual on specialists. The structural propensity to consume is reinforced and sustained by massive investment in advertising to sustain an active consumer consciousness. The media assures us to use people to gain things and to find our self-expression in a lifestyle of self-indulgent consumption of unnecessary obsoleting items which inhibits our capacity to find non-material mean for our psycho/social fulfilment. The short-term capacity of such goods to satisfy then reinforces the need to the find the next latest gadget.

In short, we have an economic system that requires people to work in order to consume and consume in order to work. The paradox is that production, and also consumption, is increasingly being done by machines (even if more efficiently). The result is that the demand for goods and services is not matched by the demand for labour and thus the nexus between work and income to consume is being broken. In this context the presently dominant strategy to protect the environment from the ravages of excessive consumption are unsustainable and largely ineffective.

Treating the victim. The present conservation strategies focus on the victim and the immediate cause of environmental threat treating particular examples of environmental degradation, for example, air pollution and water pollution. The focus of action is on medical fixes and symptom suppression to clean up a particular mess. While energy is centred on treating the victim there will always be victims. This approach is a repeat of the approaches to social welfare problems.

The first requisite for controlling the pollution producer is to work out acceptable pollution levels, while accepting pollution's inevitability. This is supply management by regulation and surveillance. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) was set up to monitor pollution and reinforce regulations. This often involves the legalisation of pollution. If the amount is exceeded or committed without a permit, then the individual polluter may be fined, stopped or more likely the quantity reduced. The overall process is only slowed, particularly as regulations are largely dependent on polluting companies. The EPA has only limited resources available for surveillance and very little follow through as far as effective sanctions. It is often cheaper to pollute and pay the fine than to stop. Controlling existing producers is one thing, the other side is assessment and prevention. With this idea in mind, environmental impact statements were introduced. These are required but not always produced, before any major development only slowed it down, or modified it. These measures increase the cost of production, provide public service employment, but have negligible impact in comparison to the extent of the environmental destruction and public expense involved. To be more effective such controls need the support of both the primary users of the environment and the public.

In the face of the increasing failure to control and to design appropriate industries with little environmental impact, one strategy of environmentalists is towards fencing off selected areas from the ravages of industry and the public. This is promoting the restructuring of personal environments. This involves developing of structural circumstances that enable multi-faceted complex relations in contrast with the primary mode that demands single function, specialised, but large-in-number contacts between people and their environment. However, this requires changing planning strategies to promote the re-integration of work and living environments and decreasing the need to move. This also involves changing our culture for example changing perceptions of acceptable ways of living and doing.

There are substantial regulatory barriers against developing conserving lifestyles such as the health regulations that limit house occupancy to one family, promote excessive packaging; and planning regulations that inhibit solar success. An active promotion of shared use of resources, eg in housing and transport, is needed.

The strategy fails to critically assess the environmental impact of the ronal approach to planning. It fails to creatively work with the issues at the borders of zones to not only build bridges but to begin to integrate approaches to planning, eg conservation with agriculture, urban with rural industrial production, the communal with the public. Breaking down these barriers is fundamental to our capacity to think globally and act locally — to work towards a holistic approach that treats all the elements in a creative way while incorporating preventative strategies.
Development and conservation can be integrated if we move away from rigid single function zoning and work towards multifunction development. For example:

- On the urban/rural fringe develop hamlets with multi-occupancy involving varied uses from residential, conservation, recreation, agriculture, and public access.
- The promotion of shared occupancy of the one dwelling as well as dual occupancy should be encouraged.
- Encouraging and enabling sharing and cooperation between consumers, eg food cooperatives.

The promotion of appropriate consumption can be helped by government if it sets an example with its own buildings, its use of transport, the non-advertising or purchase of products that have high environmental impact, and further taxes and incentives to promote one set of choices and to discourage another. A new concept of nationalism is needed that centres on the protection of the continent from our acquisitive, consuming culture. What is needed is new regulations to restrict consumption promotion; that require products to have a longer lifespan, encourage their reusability, incorporate their recyclability and increase their multiplicity of uses. This involves looking towards laws to abolish all calls to buy wasteful products not requested by a potential customer. There is a right to purchase but not to advertise. There is also a need for a careful examination of indirect methods of consumption promotion, eg credit promotion.

The government can do a lot more than it is presently doing through, for example, the Solar Energy Council and various committees to develop appropriate technology and a form of production and consumption that is environmentally sustainable. An appropriate policy here would be to allow into Australia, inde­pendent of race, but according to skills and skills in recon­struction needs, those people equal to the number who leave, thus Australia would then have a zero immigration policy. Clearly environ­mentalists would support the view that the increases in incomes need to be substantially reduced so as to broaden the base of those open to a low consumption lifestyle, not of necessity but of choice. A guaranteed minimum income would ensure work's existence and break the nexus between employment and income.

The conservation movement has argued strongly to reverse the price structure of production in order to favour labour. Unfortunately increases in demand for goods and services are not matched by an increase in the demand for labour, as investment has an increasing proportion of labour replacement. What is therefore necessary is a redistribution of the work cake so that there are increasing numbers of part-time relative to full-time workers.

We have the present dichotomy between those who work full-time and overtime and those who don't work at all and have so much time but no resources to use it. However, choosing to reduce one's income as distinct from being forced to, is dependent on challenging the entrenched psychosocial value and exchange value of things.8

Towards a Solar, Energy Co-operative Society

We need to be clear of what our longterm objectives are and have some sense of our direction and vision. What are we working towards when we struggle to stop the dump, to reduce our consumption or to change the psychology and consciousness? Actions need to be carefully structured so that what is done to respond to the crisis is consistent with our longterm objectives; curative strategies need to also include a preventative element.

Clearly a sustainable society is a society radically different from that which presently dominates. Any action towards it, is aimed up against the dominant economic; poli­tical; social and cultural forces which have a vested interest in maintaining existing structures, however unsustainable they may be in the long term.

A conserver society involves a values transformation as well as a social struc­turnal transformation. A conserver society involves a values system committed to the human scale. A value system committed to self-determination wherein the individual with significant others has power to shape their own reality; a value system committed to ecological awareness, ie that everything is connected to everything else. A value system committed to personal growth, enabling the development of the inner richness of human life by improving sensitivity to others, oneself, and the environment and finally a value system committed to material simplicity, to use things for our basic needs for food, shelter and clothing, to use versus idolising the exchange value of things.9

These values require for their implementation and sustainable practice a social structure that confronts the person with their connec­tions with the planet. A social structure that is responsive to the needs of the person and of the planet. This means a society that is dynamic, diversified and complex but, from the individual standpoint, is organised so that each individual understands its whole and their part in it. This means complexity at the personal level and simplicity at the macro level, achieved by organis­ing society in such a way that it is multi-centred, each being integrated, relatively small and autonomous from each other.10

Such a conserver society perspective involves decreasing the power and size of the public realm and increasing that of private relents, that is power centred at the grass roots level within local communities. Developing the personal will, collective power and political modes appropriate to realising this vision of a conserver society is the task to be achieved if we are to survive and live.

Footnotes

3. For an example see: P Cook and J Myles, John Reganoudy Barrier to Live Energy Manag­ing in Victoria, Environmental Report No 18, VESs, Monash, 1984.
7. A conserver society involves a values transformation as well as a social struc­turnal transformation. A conserver society involves a values system committed to the human scale. A value system committed to self-determination wherein the individual with significant others has power to shape their own reality; a value system committed to ecological awareness, ie that everything is connected to everything else. A value system committed to personal growth, enabling the development of the inner richness of human life by improving sensitivity to others, oneself, and the environment and finally a value system committed to material simplicity, to use things for our basic needs for food, shelter and clothing, to use versus idolising the exchange value of things.9
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Clearly a sustainable society is a society radically different from that which presently dominates. Any action towards it, is aimed up against the dominant economic; poli­tical; social and cultural forces which have a vested interest in maintaining existing structures, however unsustainable they may be in the long term.

A conserver society involves a values transformation as well as a social struc­turnal transformation. A conserver society involves a values system committed to the human scale. A value system committed to self-determination wherein the individual with significant others has power to shape their own reality; a value system committed to ecological awareness, ie that everything is connected to everything else. A value system committed to personal growth, enabling the development of the inner richness of human life by improving sensitivity to others, oneself, and the environment and finally a value system committed to material simplicity, to use things for our basic needs for food, shelter and clothing, to use versus idolising the exchange value of things.9

These values require for their implementation and sustainable practice a social structure that confronts the person with their connec­tions with the planet. A social structure that is responsive to the needs of the person and of the planet. This means a society that is dynamic, diversified and complex but, from the individual standpoint, is organised so that each individual understands its whole and their part in it. This means complexity at the personal level and simplicity at the macro level, achieved by organis­ing society in such a way that it is multi-centred, each being integrated, relatively small and autonomous from each other.10

Such a conserver society perspective involves decreasing the power and size of the public realm and increasing that of private relents, that is power centred at the grass roots level within local communities. Developing the personal will, collective power and political modes appropriate to realising this vision of a conserver society is the task to be achieved if we are to survive and live.
pacifies subscribe to the moral principle. For example, Gene Sharp is a leading nonviolent theorist who stresses an analytic, pragmatic approach and criticises those relying on ‘moral, imaginary and non-existent moral powers’. Nonetheless, Sharp shares a common belief in ‘nonviolence as a principle’, meaning an ethical imperative; he believes nonviolent action can lead to victory for the oppressed and opposed, because it is moral—that is, in harmony with one’s principles which include democracy, human rights and justice. If nonviolence is wrong on moral principle, it is hard to imagine this not affecting one’s assessment of the practical merits of violence and nonviolence. Nonviolence, on the other hand, offers humane, democratic possibilities.

Practical View — Violence Doesn’t Work

Nonviolence is not only morally preferable to violence, but it is more practical, according to nonviolent advocates. History shows that nonviolent resistance has been more successful in bringing about social change than violent resistance. Armed revolutions such as in Russia and China have resulted in new forms of tyranny and authoritarianism. Nonviolent resistance, on the other hand, offers humane, democratic possibilities. In support of these views, nonviolent writers often interpret history to make nonviolence more attractive and violence unattractive. For instance, The Power of the People: Active Nonviolence in the United States begins with a tribute to the nonviolent tradition of Native Americans. Centuries of armed struggle against the European aggressors are totally overlooked.

The most common historical misunderstanding by nonviolent theorists involves the father of modern nonviolence, Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, according to prevailing literature, not only spearheaded India’s nonviolent independence movement, but was a social revolutionary who championed poor people’s struggles, befriended the downtrodden, and defended India’s communal unity. Gandhi deeply sympathised with the poor and led several reform-oriented campaigns. But despite growing social tensions in India he did not favour large scale peasant or worker revolt. Gandhi and his contemporary nonviolent movement did not take on the anti-capitalist and anti-colonial direction. Thus, British colonial rule ended only to be replaced by Indian capitalist rule, and India’s oppressive structure remained intact.

Whatever its limitations, nonviolence advocates believe the Indian movement demonstrates the immense potentials to achieve nonviolent social change with little cost in human lives. Roughly 8000 people were killed as a result of the independence movement, estimates Richard Gregg in The Power of Nonviolence. Consider the importance and size of the conflict and the many years it lasted, these numbers are much smaller than they would have been if the Indians had used violence towards the British.

Several nonviolent theorists have compared the Indian struggle with the armed Mao-Mau uprising in Kenya, both having endured British rulers. The Indians incurred far fewer deaths than the Kenyans, it is claimed, indicating that violence brings greater violence and suffering and creates an atmosphere where people are afraid to discuss their differences openly. Calls for group unity may be genuine or may be used to advance a particular political position and disguise oppositional views.

Many direct action groups have come to believe that applying civil disobedience, empowering protesters regardless of whether the movement involves a mass organisation. Some groups develop delusions of grandeur, assuming more power than they actually have. This was exemplified in 1979-81 when anti-nuclear groups such as California’s Abalone Alliance and New England’s Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook, (CDAS) announced their blockades were no longer ‘symbolic’ intended primarily to arouse public concern, but aimed to actually halt nuclear plant construction. Confronting masses of police, the inability of the blockades to stop construction became quick apparent. The CDAS actions were violently crushed. Moreover, because the actions were planned as ‘symbolic’, there had been little publicity. As a result, the public impact of the protests was limited and police had a free rein to carry out reprisals.

Distinctions must be made between genuine forms of unity based on real agreement and false unity that suppresses conflict underneath. In the direct action peace movement, excessive concern for harmony often creates a passive and uncreative atmosphere where people are afraid to discuss their differences openly. Calls for group unity may be genuine or may be used to advance a particular political position and disguise oppositional views. For example, activists who do not want women’s issues raised may accuse feminists of dividing the peace movement. For example, activists who do not want women’s issues raised may accuse feminists of dividing the peace movement.

The friendly attitudes toward opponents and emphasis on converting them, traditional themes in movements guided by nonviolence, have become contended issues in some direct action groups. One of the nonviolence guidelines of the Berkley-based Livermore Action Group asked that blockaders adopt an attitude of openness, friendliness, and respect toward all people we encounter. A number of activists have objected to the guideline, pointing out that millions of people do not feel ‘open’,
An elderly islander almost proudly leafs through his photo album for the camera. "Here we are in New York, these were all taken on Long Island," he says. But the commentary lapses as images of white gravestones appear, as incongruous among the 'holiday' snapshots as the crime behind them was among the tranquility of the Marshall Islands. Because the islander's son, one of hundreds radioactively poisoned by the US nuclear testing in the 50's in the Marshalls died during medical observation (you could hardly call it treatment) in America.

The angering, almost surreal story of the US sacrifice of the islanders in the nuclear test of 1954, code-named Bravo is the subject of a new film by Australian Dennis O'Rourke. In 1947 the Marshall Islands were handed by the newly formed United Nations to the US to be held in trust, involving protection of the rights and fundamental freedoms of the islanders. So what did they do? They ordered to be tested at least 66 nuclear bombs there, one of which, Bravo, was the first deliverable hydrogen bomb, and predicted to be 500 times more destractive than its predecessors.

It appears that on this occasion the inhabitants of the nearby islands of Rongelap and Utrik were not evacuated as they had been in the past; a severe indictment on the US. Bravo produced, as planned, huge amounts of lethal radioactive fallout which began to fall several hours later as a white powder on the islanders. The children, having seen pictures of snow, played excitedly in it, and everyone fell violently ill that night.

The official claim was that it was all a mistake, that the wind didn't blow right, and the islanders were purposely established as a "savages by our standards, but happy and amenable ones". Oh my God, I never believed when I started the research. The film was not anti-American. If anything, he was more angry at the United Nations for the way it had stood by and watched the US abuse its trustship in the Marshalls by using the islands as a weapons ground.

Half Life, produced, written and directed by Dennis O'Rourke. In 1947 the Marshall Islands were given to the US by the newly formed United Nations for the way it has stood by and watched the US abuse its trustship in the Marshalls by using the islands as a weapons ground. The Marshall Islands are the evidence for all the world to see.

It is somewhat surprising, but an indication of the same compassion which he used to make the film so moving that O'Rourke is not anti-American. If anything, he is more angry at the United Nations for the way it has stood by and watched the US abuse its trustship in the Marshalls by using the islands as a weapons ground.

Half Life is an intensely moving film, both beautiful and infinitely sad. A lot of its power lies in the stark contrast between the footage used. Scenes from US propaganda films of the 40s show the native visiting the 'white mans mound' (the bone yard - the last thing you'd feel like, I'd have thought) and refers to them, standing solemn and obedient, as 'savages by our standards, but happy and amenable ones'. Oh my God - irony overload!

These scenes are interspersed with those of islanders describing their experience. One woman tells of how she became pregnant and prematurely gave birth to 'something I cannot describe' like the minus of a beauty.

It is completely the lack of humanity displayed by the US in this instance, that they treated all lives as equal, that makes the film, and the event, so angering. In a sense, the Marshallese are the first victims of World War III. They are the first culture in the history of our race which has been effectively despoiled of its home.

And they are a small culture - the end of the line. Decisions were made to deliberately allow these gentle and trusting people to be exposed to radioactivity. In the name of national security the US has irreversibly destroyed the fragile world of the Marshall Islanders for countless generations to come.

The US response to the islanders plight was to grant independence. Reagan's sickening patronising message to the islanders was "You'll always be family to us". That kind of nuclear family we could all do without.

Heather Hoare is the editor of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology student newspaper, Carlas.

Tania Jorju holds her grandson, Kimo, born to parents who were children at the time of the 'BRAVO' bomb test in the Marshall Islands in 1954. . . . we never saw these illnesses before the bomb.
Sargent traces Australia's rural history — interestingly one without peasants — through to the economic crisis which takes its toll of family farms and which she contends, has destroyed the fabric of rural society. She predicts a growth in the trend toward concentrated land ownership and warns that the country might not get another opportunity to fend off the weight of corporate capital, technology and political methods, especially by the overseas investors. She relates evidence that unneeded product proliferation, the overuse of agro-chemicals, agromachinery and marketing techniques will contribute too, to this concentration of food resources into the hands of large corporations.

She goes on to examine our changing food consumption patterns and raises issues of food, health and the social effects of 'convenience' consumerism. She points out that agribusiness responds to new market demands in one or all of three ways: going for large share of the domestic market; developing active new product programs; or expanding overseas.

In expanding overseas, Australian agribusiness has seen the populous countries of Asia and the Pacific as a captive market. Free market economists believe that Australia has a natural competitive advantage to produce and export food, and the West is Western opinion supports this. Sargent believes that amongst the negative effects, the increase in nutrition-related diseases in the previously agricultural subsistence societies of the Pacific particularly, is a direct result of aggressive marketing of rice, canned and bottled meats, processed cereals like biscuits, and dairy and sugar preparations.

While corporate food business see that the Westernising of Asian food habits and agriculture is both an advantage to them and a way of doing such development assist the landless poor of those Third World countries who constitute the majority of the hungry world. She proposes the alternative to this corporativeness as a cooperative and citizens' owned operates which safeguard the interests of the consumer and producer while employing the profitability of the corporate techniques of agribusiness, without their disadvantages.

In describing a more cooperative model, both at policy and produce levels, she emphasises the need for Australian consumers to become aware of the threats under which farmers live and the implications of our food supply. The need is too for Australian agriculture policy to analyse its links with the Third World and to take action to combat rural crisis, poverty and hunger as it exists both here and overseas.

Kate Brennan is Education Officer for the Australian Freedom from Hunger Campaign.


Clouds of Deceit was written from a British viewpoint, and before Louisa McClelland's Royal Commission Report was published. Although some material stems from the Commission's London hearings, some conclusions, and some of the emphasis, differ. For example, the nuclear research scientist, Dr. R. Turcotte, of the Canadian Atomic Weapons Tests Safety Committee from 1956, Ernest Titterton, is treated much more kindly by Smith. This committee is depicted in the book as having been largely ignored by the British, whereas McClelland found it to be deceptive, and too accommodating. On the other hand, Smith is more critical of the techniques used to compile fallout distribution patterns over Australia. One is forced to conclude from the book that the official distribution maps were useless. The author also claims, on the basis of secret documents she uncovered from the Public Records Office, that the yield of the Mosaic 02 test was 98 kilotons. It is somewhat surprising that the Australian report still sticks to the 36 kiloton figure.

Smith makes no mention of the Marston affair, in which the scientist Hedley Marsden was prevented from publishing his post-test gamma spectra observations, and from speculating about the possible dangers of tritium fallout. Furthermore, the Cobalt-60 incident described in some detail by the Royal Commission also does not rate a mention. The book does not convey the full extent of the indifference and injustice to Aborigines, while the so-called Minor Trials, which are of major concern now, are also not given the prominence given to them by McClelland.

There is a useful historical overview, in which nuclear research is traced back to Roentgen in 1895, and which culminates in the H-bomb. Although this story is generally well known, there are interesting snippets, which may be new to some. For instance, the remark made by General Groves, when he was in charge of the Manhattan Project back in 1944; he said that all the work was really directed against the Russians, although they were allies at the time. Then when it became obvious that Hitler would not have the bomb in time, the race was on to ensure an atomic weapon could be dropped on Japan before the end of hostilities.

The British Labour Party appears to be no more trustworthy than its Australian counterpart. A small number of ministers, led by Prime Minister Attlee, decided by underground means that Britain would acquire the atom bomb. Even Churchill, when subsequently renewed to power, had said to have been amazed at the amount of money spent on the project without the knowledge of the British Parliament.
GETTING OUR SHED TOGETHER

Since Chain Reaction commenced in September 1975 as a look-ahead, fantasised newsletter, it has undergone a number of changes, including a new design and layout, yet has always managed to reflect issues of current environmental concern throughout Australia and the world.

This will continue with the new collective which has taken responsibility for the production of Chain Reaction since the former editor, Jonathan Goodfield, announced his intention to leave after four years on the job.

Jonathan's skills and advice will be sorely missed.

The collective consists of this edition: Ian Voelza, Claire Goodfield, Claire Henderson, Green Gibson and Larry O'Laughlin. This is basically a Melbourne collective and we would appreciate a regular input from people in other regions. Ideally there would be a collective throughout the country. Our mission is to keep alive the issues of the nuclear issue (imagining the decision-making process!), and to provide a regular voice to the public.

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back copies of Chain Reaction are available as a set for $2.75 to include this edition. We will supply a reprint of the major stories - another $2.75 to include this edition (no 45).

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