ENVIRONMENT VICTORIA NEEDS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION

At $10 per year, Environment Victoria is a cheap, effective way of keeping yourself informed on conservation in Victoria. Subscribers to Environment Victoria also receive:
- A 10% discount on all books sold at the Environment Centre bookshop.
- Special discounts on other Conservation Council of Victoria publications.

I enclose $............................... for a........................... subscription.

Name
Address

Send to: Environment Victoria, PO Box 334, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065.

Subscriptions
- Individuals $14.00; Organisations $25.00; Overseas rate add $5.00.
- All cheques should be payable in Australian dollars and made out to "Power & Desire Magazine".
- Send contributions to: Australia. Contributions also welcome, write to us for guidelines.

POWER & DESIRE
A journal of sexual politics

Power & Desire aims to provide a forum for the discussion of sexual politics as they relate to our politics and personal lives. It includes contributions from men and women, written from a pro-feminist perspective.

SUBSCRIBE TO POWER & DESIRE
Subscription rates (four issues):
- Individuals $14.00; Organisations $25.00; Overseas rate add $5.00.
- All cheques should be payable in Australian dollars and made out to "Power & Desire Magazine".
- Send contributions to: Power & Desire, P.O. Box 334, Fitzroy, Vic. 3065, Australia. Contributions also welcome, write to us for guidelines.

Tribune
Now at your newsagent

or you can still subscribe

I enclose $............................... to continue my subscription:
- Two years $50; one year $28; 6 months $15; 3 months $8.

Name
Address

Send to: Tribune Circulation, 4 Dixon Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

BACK COPIES

NOW AT YOUR NEWSAGENT

or you can still subscribe

I enclose $............................... for a........................... subscription:
- Two years $50; one year $28; 6 months $15; 3 months $8.

Name
Address

Send to: Tribune Circulation, 4 Dixon Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Contents

16 ELECTION RUN-DOWN
By Larry O'Laughlin

19 THE FIGHT FOR THE FORESTS CONTINUES
By Basil Schur

23 STRAIGHTENING A BENT DISEASE
By Kanton Panley

26 CHERNOBYL—THE MELTDOWN REACTION

29 ATOMIC OCEANS
By Margaret Howes

32 DES WILSON
English FOE activist Des Wilson is coming to Australia. Chain Reaction previews his visit.

33 SOFT ENERGY ACTION
The first of a regular series of reports from the FOE Soft Energy Action Group.

35 ANTARCTIC FREEZE
By Trevor Daly

36 A LONG DROUGHT AHEAD?
By Peter Christoff
The New Right and cuts to funding. Does the environment movement have a future or is it facing a long drought?

LETTERS

EARTH NEWS
FOE NEWS
REVIEWS
BACKSTAGE
And the Democrats

As a new subscriber to your magazine, and with experience of the trials and tribulations of producing a journal, congratulations on Chain Reaction.

I'd like to respond to the articles in the Autumn edition (CR49) on the need to bring together the 'green' and 'red' activists by Ted Trainer and 'green' electoral alternatives presented by Roman Gromski.

The Trainer article makes the point that conservationists seem to disregard the need for radical social change, while socialists are often afraid, I believe, that the growth and technological fixes often build a better society.

Growth which depends on non-renewable resources, i.e., the object and operation of our present economy, cannot of course continue — we must have a society that is sustainable if humanity is to inhabit the earth indefinitely.

A sustainable society is one in which the economy and social conditions ensure that resources are not to be depleted and justice and the necessities of life are available to all.

A major factor influencing the kind of society we have is the way our economy functions. The policies of the government need to be examined carefully.

I would suggest that the Australian Democrats, with an agenda for radical reform, having obtained a foothold in the Parliament are not supported by like-minded groups.

There is a curious blockage of our moves to want to change what the Democrats are on about, and when told, of not believing it!

The opportunity is there for us to join in with the Democrats, take advantage of the Party structure and help to bring together elements which are needed to achieve the very different society which most evolutionists believe is necessary...

Lois Leifah Hills
Lower Plenty, Vic

Mistakes in the Zoo

Thank you for your letter of 8 May, in which you enclosed a copy of Number 49, Autumn edition, 1987 of your publication Chain Reaction.

The article 'Animal Politics' by John Lark was circulated for members of the Board of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia. There are a number of errors in the article, some of which were highlighted in your media release to The Advertiser, of 23 April, 1987.

The most important error concerns the composition of the RZSSA's Board. There are nine members - five elected by the Society, three appointed by the Governor of South Australia, and one member elected by the permanent staff of the Society (of which Mr Lark was one). The staff representative is there to represent the views of staff and to ensure that information flows from the Board to staff and vice-versa.

The government members are drawn respectively from the Departments of Environment and Planning, Treasury and Tourism. The five members elected by the Society include a veterinarian, a senior zoologist and a secondary-school science teacher.

The Board wishes to express its disappointment that your magazine did not do it the courtesy of checking its facts before going into print.

BM Baker
Director, Royal Adelaide Zoo
Adelaide, SA

The continuous imprisonment of John Dixon-Jenkins in Victoria is an appalling reflection on the fragmentation, narrowness of focus and political naivety of the movement of social change in Australia. Dixon-Jenkins was gashed for six years in 1984 on charges relating to threats which he staged solely to create an opportunity to present arguments in court which would not only dramatise the issues of the peace movement, but also establish through existing legal principles that actions by workers against existing social order in the cause of disarmament and so on was legally justified — thus establishing a principle of immense future importance to activists throughout the movements. He demonstrably had no intention, and no means, of endangering others, and voluntarily surrendered to police as part of his intended demonstration.

He was not allowed to present his defence in court, however. Thus his whole effort was smothered by officials — which may be an indication of how critically important and effective his actions could have been. He acted individually, without backing of an 'official' peace movement, because he did not want to involve others in risk or discomfort. Perhaps this is why (in the best traditions of the bureaucratic structures of the society we all want to change!) he was ignored and abandoned by the movements. It seems his unorthodox and individual initiative embarrassed those organisations as much as it did the established authorities.

Yet here was, and is, a case through which all the movements for social change could demonstrate their solidarity in their will for deep social change, their support of individuals to confront society's status quo peacefully — and at the same time, by being a case of no profound bearing for Dixon-Jenkins' case, publicise vital arguments, [name] and possibly establish a landmark precedent of law which will assist activists in the dark future as the confrontation between the thrust for change and the 'old order' grows more bitter and dangerous.

A fine, sensitive and intelligent man is being held in gaol for six years, like some 'Man in the Iron Mask', while others who make real threats against the lives of humanity at large bask in public glory, and thugs, rapists and others are paroled in more moral and the only response from most of those he has suffered for, is to make rationalising except for uninvolved, or to 'look the other way', focusing on other more-harmonious movements.

Dixon-Jenkins' case is not merely a disgusting indictment of the society we live in and the way its legal processes operate to protect exploitation, perpetuating its preconceptions and prejudice.

It is an indictment of the human mentality itself — for alas, as ever, we will mow our own laws, pick our own noses, pursue our own cause and whatever principles we may profess, we remain sheep divided in our flock; and the wolves will pick us off as individual victims or in the numbers they choose while we bleat and mistake our milling round for progress.

Eric Mack
Glen Osmond, SA

Letters
which simplistic and dismissive facets; one Downs was to proceed. That the first is that women are not viable given that Roxby humanity. It was representative of the conventions concerning the Government that he had prevented the obviously not doing so. The second case was the closure of the mine in twc refused to dance in traditional costume at the festival. Both will bring short-term success but were unable husband because she objected the latest amendments to the law. My memory of the the political climate could see evolved to sustain and control European society. Two recent cases of abuse of rights are involved. The Western Australian Government should legislate for communal and inalienable rights which have ceremomally been recognised and has sufficient size to allow for reconciliation of lands hitherto occupied by Aborigines and Torres Strait Islander people.

The right to claim all traditional land, including public purpose land.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.

The right, guaranteed by legislation, to live areas and environmental needs of the sea and sea-waterways on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to mine non-renewable resources on or adjacent to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to refuse permission for mining and other development on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.

The right to negotiate terms and conditions under which mining and development take place; and the right to statutory mining royalty equivalents.

The right to compensation for lands lost and for social and cultural disruption.

The right to convert Aboriginal properties or lands to individually freehold title.
Earth News

Uranium Decision

A decision will be made in June 1987 by a West German court as to whether a uranium deposit in the Black Forest with a potential annual output of 100 metric tons of Uranium (UTU) will be exploited commercially. The mine is Monzenschwand, owned by Gewerkschaft Brunhilde. It is already yielding about 30 MTU/y in precommercial exploitation. The ore from Monzenschwand is processed into yellowcake at Ebelweiler in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Radioactive waste stored in 51 tanks above ground poses a serious hazard. The EPI says 'an explosion or earthquake rupturing these tanks would probably have much more severe long-term consequences than Bhopal'. The risk of earthquakes in the area, it said, were underestimated and many of the tanks had developed cracks, making them more susceptible to quake damage. Leaks and other accidents have so far severely contamined the soil and shallow aquifers on the site and now threaten the region's most important source of underground water supply. The worst possible accident involving the rupture of the tanks would cause 230,000 extra cancers, 2,500 genetic defects among nearby residents and 14 billion in property damage.

The EPI also says that even without a natural disaster the area will become another 'national sacrifice area' — joining the uranium states in the south-west — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona — and the other US nuclear wastes and waste complex at Hanford in Washington.

Source: Nuclear Fuel and Waste Amsterdam

Nuclear Dumpsite

Since 1953, the Savannah River Plant — an 800 square kilometre complex of nuclear facilities in the American state of South Carolina — has served as a dumpsite for nuclear waste from America's weapons program.

Now the US Environmental Protection Institute (EPI) warns that more than 100 million litres of intense long-lasting radioactive waste stored in 51 tanks above ground poses a serious hazard. The EPI says 'an explosion or earthquake rupturing these tanks would probably have much more severe long-term consequences than Bhopal'. The risk of earthquakes in the area, it said, were underestimated and many of the tanks had developed cracks, making them more susceptible to quake damage. Leaks and other accidents have so far severely contamined the soil and shallow aquifers on the site and now threaten the region's most important source of underground water supply. The worst possible accident involving the rupture of the tanks would cause 230,000 extra cancers, 2,500 genetic defects among nearby residents and 14 billion in property damage.

The EPI also says that even without a natural disaster the area will become another 'national sacrifice area' — joining the uranium states in the south-west — Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Arizona — and the other US nuclear wastes and waste complex at Hanford in Washington.

Source: Earth Island Institute Journal

A Load of Rubbish

According to a 1985 publication of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), the residents of Melbourne and its suburbs threw away over 256 million tonnes of rubbish in 1984. After being compacted, this rubbish filled up over 4 million cubic metres of space in municipal tips. This averaged out to 15.3 kg of rubbish each week for every man, woman and child in the 53 councils of the Greater Melbourne area.

Later figures are not available but it is reasonable to assume that these amounts have increased rather than decreased. The only real solution to the problem of rubbish disposal involves composting, recycling and extensive packaging regulations. If paper, glass, ngs, metals and aluminium were recycled, the amount of rubbish would decrease by 44.5 per cent and composting food wastes and garden wastes would account for 42.9 per cent — an overall reduction of 87.4 per cent of our domestic garbage.

Unfortunately it is difficult for householders to recycle metals other than aluminium and, although all glass can be recycled, many bottles in Victoria are not recyclable.

Ten years ago, two-thirds of glass containers were returnable, now three-quarters are just thrown away. So, while households can lessen the rubbish problem through recycling, the problem itself can only be solved by legislation which bans plastic drink containers and which requires all bottles and cans to carry a deposit.

Source: From an article by Ray Radford City Alternative News May-June 1987

French Test number 144

On May 20 1987 at 5.05 pm NZ time, a 30 kiloton bomb was detonated at Mururoa Atoll. It was 2½ times the strength of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. It was the 144th test in the region.

Source: The Environment Centre Northern Territory Inc. Newsletter June 1987

Marshall Islands Update

Early in 1987 Greenpeace International approved a proposal to fund the construction of a motor-sailer for the people of Rongelap on Mejaro in the Marshall Islands. The boat will be a 40 ft catamaran outfitted with a 20 hp, diesel engine as well as sails. It will be built in Majuro, the capital of the Marshall Islands, by three Rongelap boat builders and an American boatbuilder. There will also be a refrigeration system so that longer fishing trips can be made, and to enable fish to be sold in Ebeve. Because there will be seating space and room to lie down, patients can now travel in more comfortable conditions when requiring medical care. The construction of the boat will begin in October 1987 and is scheduled to be completed by May 1988.

Source: Greenpeace News (New Zealand) Winter 1987

Tax Concessions

Multimillionaire Alan Bond was able through tax avoidance and tax concessions to reduce the tax on his gross profit of $522 million (1986) to only 3 cents in the dollar. The official rates for companies is 46 cents in the dollar. According to the Stock Exchange Research Service the top 15 corporations paid only 28 cents in the dollar instead of the required 46 cents, and thereby cost the rest of us $500 million. These same companies also showed large profit increases.

Source: Greenpeace News (New Zealand) Winter 1987
Acid Rain Problem

The Environmental Agency has issued a report that says that acid rain and snow — a serious ecological problem in North America and Europe — is also falling across Japan, and about 10 per cent of the major lakes in Hokkaido and Honshu have recordable acid levels. The agency surveyed the pH level and other rainfall factors at fourteen locations across the nation once every week for 2 years from April 1984. Results showed that the average pH level at all locations was below 5.6. A pH level below 5.6 signifies that the rain is acidic. The lower the level, the higher the acidity of the rain.

The amount of sulphuric acid ions and nitric acid ions contained in the rainfall, which are believed to come from motor cars and factory exhaust, recorded almost the same levels as in the European survey, underlining the worsening situation of nitrogen oxide and sulphur oxide pollution in Japan.

The agency also checked the acidity of 97 lakes in Hokkaido and Honshu. As a result, eleven of them were judged to be 'acidic lakes' with pH levels below 5.6.

Famous lakes like Lake Akan (Hokkaido) and Lake Biwa (Shiga Prefecture) recorded acidic levels of 4.5, illustrating environmental pollution at popular tourist spots.

Source: Revealing Japan May 1987

Police Get Heavy on Light Rail

Protesters against the Victorian Government's proposed Light Rail replacement of the Port Melbourne and St Kilda railway lines have faced police using desperate tactics. Police strip-searched a blind man in one incident which is now being investigated by civil liberties groups.

In another case, police arrested John Kirby, who was carrying his 20-month-old son in a backpack at the time. Kirby, whose wife is a full-time teacher, now faces a care application in the Children's Court where the police will attempt to prove that the boy requires a level of State intervention for his good care.

Chain Reaction report will report on the outcome of the case, which is believed to be unprecedented. Meanwhile the protest against the scheme continues on the basis that:

* it is a land grab by the Government to allow them to sell off surplus railway land.
* the trains will be replaced by trams which will be able to run in the middle of a road, which will allow the development of a six-lane freeway through the seaside suburb.

Police will provide less services, including less accurate schedules, more inconvenient routes and reduced access for disabled, elderly and children in prams; 
* parallel services will be threatened as the Government reduces nearby tram and bus services to increase use of the Light Rail.

Source: Chain Reaction report

Activism Cracks Down

The Community Research Action Centre which is an illustrious, star-studded history of involvement in campaigning on controversial social issues and support for disadvantaged groups in society, is about to be crushed by the growing forces of the Right-wing student movement. In a trial test of their strength, a coalition of Liberal 'dries', NCC supporters, Right-wing ALP members and religious fundamentalists have earmarked the Centre as the first go in their bid to depoliticise campuses. This is part of a heavily financed nationwide strategy, evinced by the Right at ANU, Queensland, WA and Sydney Universities, who have emerged in similar strength with identical strategies.

The chairperson of the Centre, Andrea Millison, said: 'Monash becomes a campus dominated by the Right-wing if the centre goes, and along with this goes all hope of any students being able to express any progressive social thought, or organise effectively around any issue of general student concern. Monash is already the most reactionary of the Victorian universities. The students have organised themselves against the Federal Government's fees; Monash's student Union has not directed students in any way against this attack on the right to education."

The Centre began in 1973 as a centre for environmental research, and broadened through the 1970s and 1980s to cover gay rights, Aboriginal communal issues and Aboriginal perspectives on the 1982 Commonwealth Games, uranium mining, current energy production and alternative sources, disarmament and nuclear proliferation, disabilities faced by women, including child-care, sexual harassment, the in vitro fertilisation issue, issues involved in Anzac Day beyond its commemorative function, prejudices faced by disabled people at Monash, and community radio. 3CR and 3RRR as people's access to media.

These days Monash makes the headlines with the economic and social policies produced by the Centre for Policy Studies, and ethical issues raised by the in vitro fertilisation program undertaken by Monash medical researchers. Meanwhile institutionalised learning becomes predetermined by post-tertiary employment opportunities at the cost of progressive education outside the academic framework.

Source: Community Research Action Centre, Monash University.
Change of Course

Admitting the World Bank had stumbled in its attempts to limit environmental consequences of development projects it has supported, President James Wolfensohn announced bold measures to step up environmental protection in developing countries.

The Bank would also begin an urgent country-by-country assessment of environmental threats in the 30 most vulnerable developing nations including the Sudan, Burkina Faso, Indonesia and the Philippines. Mr. Wolfensohn also pledged to strengthen the Bank's long-standing policy of scrutinizing development projects for their environmental impact and, where necessary, withholding funds for those with inadequate safeguards.

Contaminated Spice

According to a Japanese Health and Welfare Ministry Report, thyme and sage harvested after the Chernobyl accident and imported from France and Turkey have been found to be contaminated with radioactive substances Cesium 134 and 137. The Ministry ordered the spices to be sent back to the producing countries and believes that radioactive substance blown up into the sky from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant seeped into the soil was absorbed and became entwined in the plants.

Source: Revealing Japan May 1987

A World Bank stumble

Tropical forests, Mr. Wolfensohn declared, "do matter. If, in finding solutions for the future, we forget that forests are a reality which we must make part of the problem in the past, I shall make it a leader in finding solutions for the future."

Leading up to the fifteenth edition of Chain Reaction we asked for anec
dotal history from people who have been involved with Friends of the Earth and Chain Reaction over the years. We also fished through previous issues and found the passages we are reprinting here. Since we didn't have space for it all, we will include another 'historical' section in the next edition.

Friends of the Earth Adelaide University

Possibly the first FOE group in Australia was that at Adelaide University. The early seventies were times of social upheaval and many ideas were imported from overseas. In 1971, a University group called Social Action produced a number of major articles which appeared in the campus newspaper, On Dit, about waste, pollution, and the environment.

Social Action had subgroups and was active in a number of areas, yet there was enough interest to also form a Friends of the Earth group. Information from overseas about happenings on the environmental front was circulated and soon there was a core of students concerned about the environment. From the first, FOE called itself a radical ecology group.

By March 1972 regular meetings of FOE were held under the auspices of Social Action/Abeco. A seminar was held entitled 'It technology a blueprint for destruction?' This concern with the effects of technology was an important part of questioning the purposes of university. The proceedings were later published for distribution.

The First Campaign

Appropriately enough, the first target for FOE was waste in the packaging of first aid kits developed for the military and the police. A rapid response saw the group convince the military to switch to smaller packaging.

Steel Can Blues: FOE vs. BHP

After the attacks on Coke, the Steel Can People were trying to promote a community conscious, responsible image for BHP (as a producer of steel cans), decided to try to tame FOE. They invited them to observe recycling opera-

We held our first national meeting (and pillow fight) in December last year (1974). The politics of the middle class and FOE were much debated. One delegate believed that all FOE had done has been to continue in the tradition of middle-class politics of manipulation. It was emphasised that what we found and the attitudes of the population at large, and that it is all too easy to slip into a mode of action of the lobbying of different elite strata — trade union leaders, politicians, students and other environmentalists — and then to imagine that we are making headway. It was agreed that FOE's objectives are to consolidate the alleged conservation power base in the community, and to crystallize the vague environmental awareness into specific demands and action.
Friends of the Earth Adelaide (continued).

June 1972 saw the focus on the French nuclear tests in the Pacific, with a double page spread in Monday's On Oil, a public meeting on the Tuesday, and a march from Elder Park to the French Consulate. This was the first sign of FOE's continuing concern with all aspects of nuclear operations.

As at this time, the group at Adelaide Uni wasn't officially connected to FOE groups interstate or overseas. In 1973, FOE at Adelaide Uni was visited by Peter Hayes, from FOE Melbourne. He had permission from overseas to use the name Friends of the Earth in Australia, and was worried about the illegal use of the name. Close cooperation developed between the groups, particularly on the uranium broadsheets subsequently produced.

'FOE appeared to me to be fragmented. Some campaigns were run on a liberal-authoritarian structure, while in others attempts at collectivism were made. Some argued that FOE's many varied campaigns required equally varied methods and that a uniform structure or commitment to an ideology would be repressive. I found the lack of uniform policy did not lead to freer thinking, but to confused practice and internal faction-fights. Often there was a sense of reaction rather than planned action.'

Chain Reaction No. 29, 1982, Margaret Jones discussing the links between ideology and ecology. This debate raged in Chain Reaction for several issues.

---

EVEN MORE

- FRIENDS OF THE EARTH PRESENT

KING OF KRAP AWARDS

- to those companies that make our group necessary.

The first of these is on this week. Presentations of their own pollutants will be made in various first night arts ceremonies. Usually, this will be preceded by PURPOSEFUL PROCEEDINGS.

PUT YOUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER — CONVENIENCE NOW, SURVIVAL LATER!

DIRECT ACTION IS NEEDED — MARCH AGAINST CAPITALIST HYPOCRISY AND COMPLACENCY

LAWN HALL FRIDAY, APRIL 15 — MARCH TO CORE PLANT ON PORT ROAD.

FOR EARTH'S SAKE, ACT NOW.

---

'Chain Reaction aims to do a whole lot of things — to act as a voice for Friends of the Earth, to expose issues which receive too little coverage elsewhere, and to act as a national link between controversies and campaigns.' — Chain Reaction Vol. 5, No. 4, 1980, editor's letter.

---

How effectively does the environmental movement organise itself? Well, after nearly 10 years in it, I'm not sure that it is not an organisation rather than happening. To be an organisation it must become a type of bureaucracy, loaded down with the onerous duties of finding funds, writing submissions and letters, keeping politicians aware of the transgressions of industries in matters of clean air, water, earth and the rational use of our resources. To be a happening it must involve large numbers of caring people, and although there are many, so far not a caring majority. — Chain Reaction, No. 27, 1982, Betty Beclwich discussing the effectiveness of the environmental movement.

---

Visitors Note:

Not all the early seventies are well documented, nor all the documents well mentioned above may be incorrect. I have had to rely on human memory, a notoriously ingenious device, for some details. My thanks to Peter Bill, Sandy Chapple, Alby Frick, Anne McCrink, Max Menamin, Liz Osman, and Rob Ranjezi for filling in some of the gaps.
As for the suggestion that *Chain Reaction* is a socialist rag, we do not follow any political party line. We consider people’s welfare and the environment to be more important than economic development for its sake — that is socialism, then what is wrong with socialism? We do not think that there is any great virtue in always being in the middle on moral or political questions. *Chain Reaction* Vol. 4, No. 1, 1976 Editor’s letter to reply to a FOE member accusing FOE and *Chain Reaction* of ‘equating socialism with ecology’.

The ideological dynamics of FOE are not secret. The *FOE* magazine *Chain Reaction*, which should be required reading for all concerned with the future of the mining industry, contains a lift out on the Chernobyl disaster (No. 46) ... issue No. 47 reports on the anti-woodchipping campaigns in WA, a long attack on the evils of the US bases in Australia, an interview with a renegade CIA official ... and an expose on uranium mining in WA ... What does this have to do with conservation? Everything.” *Australian Journal of Mining* April 1987

**Friends of the Earth**

**Port Pirie**

Port Pirie, on Spencer Gulf South Aust­ralia, is the site of a large lead-zinc smelter and also the site of an uranium enrichment plant situated on the northern edge of the town. This enrichment plant was set up by the States Government to treat concentrates from the Radium Hill mine, producing uranium oxide, yellowcake. This was sold under contract to the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Operation proceeded from 1955 to 1962 when the contract ran out. Radium Hill was shut down and has not been mined since — much better deposis were found, especially in the Kadaku National Park! Left at Port Pirie was an extensive series of uncovered tailings dams, about 15 hectares. A playground for kids.

Then in November 1976 all hell broke loose, ‘Hot spots’ were by chance discovered in the dam. But they did not arise from the Radium Hill material. There had been another treatment plant on the site. From 1968 to 1972, a small under-capitalised private enterprise, Rare Earth Corporation, had treated monazite sands there. Monazite arises from the treatment of the ores and the recovering rutile and ilmenite, monazite remains as a source of rare earth oxides. Attempts were made at Port Pirie to separate the rare earth oxides into marketable, higher value forms. The crucial line in that the final tailing there is a thorium oxide residue. Thorium is radioactive and has a decay chain similar to, though not identical with, uranium. The hot spots were due to the thorium residue.

These ‘Hot spots’ were covered with slag from the nearby smelers, 4000 tonnes of it. But that only started the saga, it didn’t end it. The readings on the dams had been quite appreciable in some areas — 8-10 millirems an hour. Hugh Hudson was then Minister of Mines and Energy in the Labor Gov­ernment. The first action was to fence off the dams and erect danger signs. But a fence does not prevent radon evasion from uncovered tailings — there was still 15 hectares to cover.

A committee of concerned citizens was set up when the subject became hot — no panic intended. Early in 1977, this committee then established a branch of FOE at Port Pirie. We debated whether we should be FOE or MAUM and wisely selected FOE as there would be other environmental issues to tackle apart from uranium.

Those who helped to establish FOE were Ian Hall, a graduate in electronics and Ally Fricker, a wonderful activist. Also involved were Judith Sherry, a local resident, and Harm and Tinky Follers who ran the Special School for disadvantaged pupils. Later came Andy Alcock, a school teacher. There was an infusion of outside talent and fresh thinking here. So many country towns are short of outside help.

The branch prospered, regularly having 10-12 meetings, as many as city groups. FOE became an eyesore. The branch turned out to be another toxic material. The town was too close to the smelter. Much con­trovery led to tighter controls over lead burning materials passing from the smelter into the town environs, leading to lead absorption and especially, possi­ble harmful effects on children.

The uranium treatment plant area re­mains as an eyesore, a relic of an un­necessary episode in the life of the town. As one time, the Council were advertis­ing it as a suitable piece of real estate for prospective industries. Valuable in­deed — not at all.

So the lessons were that citizens must join together at grassroots level on local issues. Put pressure on politicians. FOE proved to be the medium for this. And South Australia’s problem has now been transferred to a much bigger one in Kakadu.

**Bert King** is now an activist with **Friends of the Earth Collingwood**.

**Friends of the Earth**

**Sydney University**

*Filling of the tailings dam with slag, the early stages 1983.*

*With ultra high tides, as happened in June 1991, the dam wall could be breached, and some tailings flushed out to sea.*

As a result of FOE’s submission to Hugh Hudson that the dams should be completely covered with a metre of slag — which was - this event­ually happened, five years later, in 1982. So despite all the denials — no effect on local health, radiation level — acceptable the Government by now Liberal, had to accept that the situation was unacceptable.

FOE then turned its attention to lead, another toxic material. The town was too close to the smelter. Much con­trovery led to tighter controls over lead burning materials passing from the smelter into the town environs, leading to lead absorption and especially, possi­ble harmful effects on children.

The uranium treatment plant area re­mains as an eyesore, a relic of an un­necessary episode in the life of the town. As one time, the Council were advertis­ing it as a suitable piece of real estate for prospective industries. Valuable in­deed — not at all.

So the lessons were that citizens must join together at grassroots level on local issues. Put pressure on politicians. FOE proved to be the medium for this. And South Australia’s problem has now been transferred to a much bigger one in Kakadu.

Bert King, is now an activist with **Friends of the Earth Collingwood**.

**Friends of the Earth**

**Williamstown**

In early 1985 a small group of people interested in the objectives of Friends of the Earth decided to form a local branch in Williamstown. We were a low profile group we had spent much time and energy working on two different levels. Whatever it is we try to support the initiatives of the Adelaide, National and International FOE. We also concentrate on the local issues. Such as:

- Council usage of herbicide.
- Local watchdog on proposed expan­sion of timber mill in residential area.
- Actively campaigning to save specific trees and encouraging replanting.
- Propagating plants for sale.
- We have produced a comprehensive booklet on the Williamstown area which includes local information as well as activities with an environmental focus for families and children.

When our group first began in this small rural community we were viewed with suspicion, however we are now seen in a more positive light with the fact that we are being approached by groups and individuals for advice on environ­mental related issues.

Deborah Madgen, Friends of the Earth Williamstown.

**Chain Reaction**

"Chain Reaction is the quarterly magazine of Friends of the Earth Australia, publishing feature articles and news on national and international environmental issues, and searching for the way towards a sustainable, convivial society of which lives in harmony with its environment." *Chain Reaction* Vol. 3, No. 1, 1976

We were talking about activism, and how to evaluate its effectiveness. Judging activism by its media coverage alone seems to ring quite hollow. One of the things I’ve discovered is the value of having fun as an objective, while being politically and environmentally active — just the buzz from standing up to all those authorities I was told to respect without question from childhood. It is the enjoyment of the experience of activism which I value beyond most other aspects, and it is this aspect which is almost always overlooked by people discussing the subject. *Chain Reaction* Vol. 5, No. 1, 1979. Michel Russo discussing Rolf Heimann’s journey of protest, on the yatch La Flor, against nuclear testing in the Pacific, which he considered to be one of the great success stories of activism."
The Federal election has been the focus of much attention lately so Larry O'Loughlin scanned the election offerings to come up with some highlights and offer some opinions.

The election for all members of the Federal Parliament on 11 July will not go down in history as one of the more exciting, as it was not called to decide issues, but to take opportunities to attain power.

If the ALP loses, the ensuing theoretical struggle in the party would be to come up with credible excuses. I can remember Federal elections since 1975 and it seems to me that the ALP never had it so good. Most media outlets are giving them a dream run; 'financial indicators' are picking up just nicely at the right time; the Opposition parties are proceeding as if they have two right feet, both in their mouth; there is no opposition from the major national organisations which exist such as the ACTU, or the ACF, and there are no strong organisations in key areas such as among students or the Left; and the ALP itself is giving a good impression of being united, especially with the prospect of at least four new Ministers after the election.

On the other hand, the ALP has probably never done more to deserve to lose. The litany of their crimes almost flows into the recesses of my memory as the latest outrage or three emerges. I was an ALP member when Hawke became Prime Minister four weeks after winning an uncontested leadership ballot following the resignation of Bill Hayden. At first we called for the implementation of 'Party Policy' - a quaint phrase often used back then - then we started to rumble with discontent as we saw moves to ignore that policy, and then we could do nothing but join the public protests which started to build over issues such as support for the Indonesian invasion of East Timor, the refusal to give humanitarian aid to Vietnam, the use of the 'Hogg amendment' to allow the mining of uranium at Roxby Downs, financial deregulation, the use of the Accord to cut real wages without respecting the Social Wage parts of the deal, the refusal to introduce national Land Rights legislation, the cutback in child care centre places after keeping to their commitments at first, the sale of uranium to France, the axing of the doe to 16 and 17 year olds, and the threat of the Australia Card.

Everyone would have a list of things they think the ALP has done wrong, but even my own shortened list above would not have been enough in itself to stop me voting ALP. The real problem is that I feel that there are very few other ways that I can affect their exercise of power. I am unconvinced by arguments that the others would be worse because the distinction between bad and worse has blurred, and there can be no guarantee that the ALP will not adopt more of the Liberal-National Party policies after the election.

There are things to do with this election that won't leave a bitter taste in the mouth. There are good candidates in a number of areas, especially the Senate with 'progressive' candidates in most States. The Democrats, as Roman Oranski put it, are 'turning greener by the bushel as conservative elements leave' (Chain Reaction 49) and deserve consideration. However, they tend to be parliamentarily-oriented and have failed to deliver in the past on environment-related issues such as repealing section 45d of the Trades Practices Act. This repeal may have done more to stop the export of uranium than any other pious resolution, because it would have removed legal restriction on unions appealing "secondary boycotts".

The Nuclear Disarmament Party has re-emerged for the election, although it has not been visible doing grass roots work since the last election, and seems not to have addressed the issue of how it relates to the environment movement. I will not trust anyone who does not have a record of some sort to judge, or processes for relating to people outside the party.

George Georges would be my favorite candidate of any in Australia and he has a good chance of being elected. He is standing in Queensland with a good 8 point program, which includes peace and disarmament, civil and industrial rights (especially against the Australia Card), Aboriginal rights, free education, return of privatized public enterprises to public control, and the environment. He is also supporting the Community Radio Federation. He is running against the Treasurer, the impostor Paul Keating, in the seat of Blaxland, and has a chance, as he is above the impostor on the ballot paper.

Michael Mansell, who is Director of the Tasmanian Aboriginal Legal Centre, will put himself forward as a candidate in the Senate who will represent those people who don't get a voice under the current system; recognition of Aboriginal sovereignty will be one of his major themes.

One hope we have is that Paul Keating will win in his seat. That is, the real Paul Keating, who is also Secretary of the Community Radio Federation. He is running against the Treasurer, the impostor Paul Keating, in the seat of Blaxland, and has a chance, as he is above the impostor on the ballot paper.

And finally, people have the opportunity of not voting or voting to depose your preferences as quickly as possible (see How to vote for the candidates you want).
It is interesting to note the ACF's publications on the election. They first announced that the organisation would be campaigning on the theme 'Vote for the Forests' and that the members of the Foundation's Council were being polled to decide ACF's position. That vote was taken and the following reasons were put forward:

- if a Liberal-National Party Government was elected, Australia would have to kiss goodbye much of our natural heritage including the wet tropical rainforests of Queensland, other native forests, parts of Kakadu, Shellelburne Bay, Fraser Island, and even the Franklin River;
- the Liberal Party announcements last week that they would abolish the Department of Arts, Heritage and Environment, the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, and grant to the Australian Conservation Foundation and other bodies show how little the Liberal Party cares for the environment and those who want to protect it.

However, the body which regards itself as 'a national organisation that is active on all major conservation issues including the Great Barrier Reef, forests, toxic waste, nuclear issues, and Australia and Kakadu' has now decided to endorse the election of the Labour Party in the Federal Election.

The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has the Great Barrier Reef, forests, toxic waste, nuclear issues, and Australia and Kakadu has now decided to endorse the election of the Labour Party in the Federal Election.

The ACF media release goes on:

Although the ALP has made some decisions we disagree with, their policies are overwhelmingly better than the Liberal-National Party. And the Democrats are needed in the Senate to force Governments to introduce bills which are protecting the environment and stop Governments pushing through anti-environmental bills.

ACF plans to hold public meetings, distribute leaflets and 'campaign heavily on the ground'. A special newsletter will be produced (contact your nearest ACF office or call, toll free, 06-33-8908 for your copy). Their major effort will be in marginal seats in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart and Adelaide.

It is very good to see the ACF getting organised and making a splash in the media but I believe they are very wrong in supporting the ALP. I have my reasons:

- ACF has ignored the Government's total environment record, and it has demonstrated it can be insular and single-issue-oriented. It is also going against the trend in most other parts of the environment movement of seeking to give a more holistic view of the environment;
- although only 10 per cent of its annual budget comes from Federal Government grants, it does look as though this has gone towards buying the ACF's electoral support;
- if you were going to support a particular party for its environmental record, you would support the Democrats, and in the ACF material they come second, with most focus on marginal seats which the Democrats are not contesting;
- like it or not, it is possible that the Liberals and the Nationals could win Government and ACF's lobbying ability would be severely reduced, although the organisation would then be able to re-assess its role vis-a-vis governments.

This requires major reform of current intensive forestry practices which are rapidly converting Western Australia's native forests to regrowth tree farms. A new system of land use planning in State Forests should involve zoning of the mature karri and virtual clearfelling of the jarrah forests, and road, river and stream reserves would be 'selectively' logged.

Many stronger measures should be taken to retain what native mature forests remain because of their irreplaceable ecological and social values. This requires major reform of current intensive forestry practices which are rapidly converting Western Australia's native forests to regrowth tree farms. A new system of land use planning in State Forests should involve zoning of mature forests to indicate where wood production is a subordinate land use to conservation and recreation as principal values. Important areas to Nature Reserves or National Parks. For example, national park proposals cover the Shannon River Basin, Wattle/Soho forest blocks and much of the Taart forest. These improvements represent a welcome step in the right direction towards proper conservation of Western Australia's forest heritage.

But there are major problems with the State forest reserve system proposed. The old 'management priority area' (MPA) system has been abandoned and most of the former National Parks have been downgraded to 'Forest Parks/Reserves'. The 'Forest Parks/Reserves' which would have timber production zones include the Lane Poole in the Murray-Watson Valley, Blackwood, Boranup and other areas in the central region. These 'Forest Parks' thus represent much despoil.ing of 'Forest Parks/Reserves'. This category of reserve, as proposed, is little more than a recipe for future land use conflicts.

There are other proposed changes in zoning to particular areas which are not-conservation. For example, ACF proposes to vest the Kent River catchment reserve as State Forest, with production as a principal priority. It also wants to downgrade areas of State Forest in the Northcliffe area to vacant Crown Lands. This move has sinister implications and these areas could be fenced for agriculture, in-
CALM's proposed 'Forest Parks' should become national parks or nature reserves. Additional important areas of karri reserves. Additional important areas of karri reservations. Additional important areas of karri reserves. Additional important areas of karri reserves.

Further legislation is needed to conserve Western Australia's forests on both public and private land. It places profits before environment, complexity neglects many ecological problems already expressed in our forests, and is geared towards increasing production and consumption of wood products both in Western Australia and overseas. Its concern with sustainability is purely motivated by the dictates of commercial wood production.

The few good proposals in the strategy include: 

- an emphasis on further processing of native hardwoods
- increasing the royalties paid by industry
- the establishment of a hardwood share-farming scheme that, if it was entirely confined to already cleared land, would have merits
- regulation of the level of cutting by changing the allowable cut to include sawlogs only, not just first grade logs.

However, it also contains many undesirable proposals and policies. It would commit CALM to:

- maintaining environmentally unsound clearfelling and virtual clearing of virtual clearing technology
- intensifying logging in important water catchment areas
- strongly promoting intensive logging and thinning operations as a means of converting mature native forests into even aged regrowth wood farms
- maintaining present levels of WACAP'S State Forest woodchipping

supporting, in principle, McLean Sawmills' woodchip proposal
- providing support for increased logging of privately owned forests
- endorsing environmentally unsound 'karri residue' industrial projects such as the Windowie sill and hewett/charcoal proposal
- providing 10-15 year contracts to a few timber companies such as Bunnings Ltd, with no improvement in log allocation for small sawmillers
- encouraging expanded export of hardwoods (either as industrial firewood/woodchips or as value added wood products).
- remaining as a captured bureaucracy serving the needs of the timber industry at the expense of other forest values.

The draft strategy ought to have considered how to structure and reduce the scale of the woodchipping industry away from being predominantly based on chip logs from mature forests to, instead, full dependency on sawmill residue and plantation resources. As well it could have discussed:

Rainforest
Bashing in Daintree

The blockade at the site of the then proposed Cape Tribulation Road brought national and international attention to the threatened despoliation of the Daintree rainforest. Alex Colley compiled this article from correspondence with people maintaining the original blockade site.

The original blockade site still has a band of dedicated conservationists car- rying on a long battle against all odds. The site, supported by the Greater Daintree Action Centre, is the best thing going for the rainforest in North Queensland. It has remained a thorn in the side of the Douglas Shire Council who are still producing media releases condemning the dirty greenies of Cape Tribulation to smokescreen the rainforest issue.

Recent observations on the Bloomfield Road, the so-called 'tunnel for further works to the tune of millions of dollars, should his coalition win the next election.

A gravel pit is planned for Emmagen Creek — Cape Tribulation's Garden of Eden — and a works depot as a bulkshead is in store in the wilderness at the base of Cowie Range. It seems no one camps or walks up the coast anymore. Gone are the droves of walkers on the Bloomfield Track and all the time and arranged a visit from Ian Sinclair in the pouring rain and managed to get along about two kilometres of the new road. This was sufficient for him to announce his sup- port for further works to the tune of millions of dollars, should his coalition win the next election.
it is scandalous that two years since the blockade, camping is still illegal in Cape Tribulation National Park. Youth hostellers don't stay long in Cape Tribulation now. Invariably it's a real circus. The Aboriginal kids came down to swim but were chased away by the traffic. The huge monster belonging to AAT Kings and Austrack stopped there for an hour with about 30 mums and dads milling around with cameras and videos — it's a real circus. If they had seen the place before, they would cry to see it now.

There may well be some surprises in store for the Council though as it digs itself into a deeper hole. The road has already the essence of a major bushfire that destroyed property and hundreds of hectares of forest in the Bloomfield-Kangagi Bay area. This has raised the ire of locals, who, despite a 60 per cent increase in rates in the last three years, are provided with no services apart from a road they did not want and do not need. Donavan's Hill runs like a red line over the reef.

It was sad to watch lots of speeding trailbikes. The swimming pool at Tchalbaiga has been ruined and the campsite ripped out by a bulldozer. The whole creek has been nearly sucked dry by water truck. And at the junction of Donavan's Range a bulldozer set upon the creek in a most disgusting manner. The best example of pollution of fresh water supplies is Melissa Creek at North Cowie. The run off from the Cowie Range has filled the bottom of the best fresh water supply in the whole area with sediment to a general depth of 6 inches. The water is disatserful and takes hours to settle after a brief wade in the pool. These creeks are becoming health hazards, and it is suspected that a 1986 malaria outbreak at Cape Tribulation was facilitated by the declining water quality.

One Sunday we observed about 100 vehicles on the road. We stopped at South Cowie and watched ten or twelve 4WDs pull in to be stuffed with tourists. Underneath by 4WDs are being knocked in beside creek crossings such as Emmagen and the Wooruhida, but the worst example of campsite destruction is the disaster to have befell the best natural campsite in Bloomfield at the causeway crossing. A bulldozer has run in and flattened an area on both sides of the river which was extremely picturesque. The road is still only a fair weather track and becomes inaccessible when the wet returns and Donavan's Hill runs like a red line over the reef.

As a worker on the AIDS information hotline set up by NACAIDS in Adelaide, it was my experience that the initially controversial campaign succeeded admirably...in terrifying people and putting sensible education about AIDS back into the Dark Ages. A small percentage of the populace contacted the hotline number, barely legible at the bottom of the screen after the Reaper faded into grisly mist. Most of those people were alarmed at the level of crisis, truly those figures of 50,000 people infected with the virus seemed to have leapt from nowhere, and anxious to know if they might have caught the disease.

Hugh Mackay, director of the Centre for Communication Studies, worded it well in his Times on Sunday article: 'The AIDS ad is so frightening, you can’t hear a word it’s saying. After years of experimentation and millions of research dollars, the advertising industry now knows that shock-barrow gets short-term attention which quickly fades unless the emotional arousal it creates is instantly channeled into positive behaviour. But, in the absence of this kind of information, a great emotional vacuum will be created. The AIDS campaign will be more explicit and informative about strategies for preventing infection by the AIDS virus. In the absence of this kind of information, a great emotional vacuum will be created. The AIDS campaign will be more explicit and informative about strategies for preventing infection by the AIDS virus.'
This is beginning to happen, with slim and steady amassing of their way to public attention. Michael Gavenda in _The Age_ (2 May 1987), was more full-blooded in his report on the general public consciousness of the Reaper's intentions. He noted that 'Most of the evidence points to the conclusion that the AIDS virus has not yet spread beyond the high risk groups - homosexuals and drug users.'

On the AIDS information hotline, 'drug users,' over the morally laden 'drug abusers' in more common use. However, 'high risk groups' is a phrase we also want to obliterate. Firstly, it denies the reality that every sexually active person is currently at risk if not practising Safe Sex. Secondly, it perpetuates the myth of 'high risk groups' over 'high risk behaviours', the phrase that should be emphasised. Homosexual men infected with the disease did not catch the virus because they are gay, but rather, because of some of the sexual practices they engaged in allowed for the transmission of the virus. Hence, I see that the easiest way to shock an audience in an AIDS education talk is not to mention fist fucking, as certain governmental educators are wont to do when they notice people's attention slipping, but to tell them that not all gays have sex at all.

When AIDS first splashed on to the larger headlines and eyewitness news services of this country, it was perpetually presented as being a gay focussed disease. As John O'Hara in _Metro_ put it:

One key response has been the development of a syndrome of horror, shock and anger. The horror is expressed in descriptions of what are represented as bizarre sexual practices; shock that the disease could happen unacknowledged in an era of high-tech medicine and 'normal' sexual habits to believe in, and anger at the group held responsible. (Metro Spring 1986).

The disease became a moral retribution on homosexuals and, later, drug users. There was a divine justice after all, bringing punishment as fittingly as the perpetrator of diseases that were considered to be social deviants. AIDS made it public attention, the hysterical focusing of blame grew worse. These people became 'innocent' victims as opposed to the 'guilty' homeless. AIDS had no obvious out of the way to connect the disease.

The mythical edgings of society don't bear much proof in this article when he said:

AIDS is alarmingly fascinating: for all the talk of the sexual revolution in the last two decades, it has been AIDS which has allowed us - forced us - to publicly consider aspects of sexuality in a way which was impossible just a short time ago. And what that discussion has revealed is that there is so much of which we are ignorant.

How many homosexual men are there in Australia? How many of them are married and keep their bisexuality a secret? ... How many gay men also have heterosexual relationships? ... Who does what to whom and how often?

Regardless of the sources of the leap the disease has taken from minority groups to that great big stumperware party of society, the cold hard fact is that it has happened. The danger now though, is that those Government bodies and community leaders taking up the fight seem to be ignoring the lessons available from the homosexuals' part in the battle, to the extent that they are underestimating some of the good that has been done. This slip shod public education has done little to dispel the myths of the early eighties: it is doubtful that anyone expected government education to be able to tell you the difference between someone who has AIDS, and someone who is infected with the virus, or even that the virus is only transmissible by sexual fluids or blood. Anyone observing Dr Scott Cameron in action, for example, would be horrified to be hearing a South Australian Government Health workers, insists on using value laden homophobic terms, what hope is there for the rest of us? Do they naught he 'teachers,' or others like them?

The crime in misinformation is not in the thirst for real knowledge that people have. They are left with a void to fill, and with myths and rumours. Whatever the latest developed in the latest sensible data, the consequent are disastrous. Pointing to the multipliers of AIDS carriers as being homosexual men, many are now turning their back on the validity of, what the advert has told them. People are letting themselves ignore the value of the current campaign as a preventative one, that if they don't have the disease they should avoid it, because it hasn't been packaged effectively as such. In a country where you are advised not to show how to use a condom on television, there can be no effective safe sex education.

I'm not advocating corruption of youth either, whatsoever it implies exactly. The dearth of defence is that the virus carriers, those who are HIV positive, ignoring that as long as AIDS can't be transmitted by casual contact, but other viral infections that can destroy a body without an immune system can, HIV positive people are in more danger, health wise, from them.

AIDS boils down to a simple question of life and death: death is a quality thereof. I'm afraid that in my heated reunion I was a bit too strident on the point. Some things I've slipped into adopting its simplistic life versus death arguments. There are many ways to die; that manners which AIDS makes possible are among the worst. To decide against death or suffer where it can be prevented, is to desire a quality of life. Like most people, I'd like relative quality in my life, that is, as full as limits allow. AIDS makes possible are among the worst. To decide against death or suffer where it can be avoided, the rest of our lives can be enjoyed. Learn about AIDS, lobby for a sensible education of people by the government or whatever, just please, if you're at all doing so, stop hoping or pretending that it was only ever a gay plague and will remain so. To do so is to virtually a bowling date with the Grim Reaper.

The present governments' thoroughly inadequate, sensationalist, non-informative campaign on AIDS.

Gay men who adopt the Elsie attitude, (in the sense 'Life is a Caber, Old Chum'), she was 'the happiest corpse I'd ever seen'), and are determined to commit to its fullest, including unsafe sex.

Anyone who suggests taking the test for the AIDS virus positively or negatively in any way, this is going to help the person beyond telling them whether or not they may be carrying the virus, but by the same token, the virus is going to 'have the test' are produced with a sincerity that is reassuring, meaning that it denies Western medicine's inability to present a cure.

People who suggest isolation of the virus carriers, those who are HIV positive, ignoring that as long as AIDS can't be transmitted by casual contact, but other viral infections that can destroy a body without an immune system can, HIV positive people are in more danger, health wise, from them.
Chernobyl – the Meltdown Reaction

It is now over a year since the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. Elizabeth Kox-Rich is a wine grower in Luxemburg. In this interview recorded for the Stick Together Show on Radio 3CR she tells how the meltdown has affected the people living in Europe. For the last few years she has been one of the millions of Europeans actively opposing nuclear power.

Why are you an opponent of nuclear power stations?

Yes, by all means. It strengthened the movement. What also happened was that many young women became much more worried and many groups - parent and children initiatives - have arisen, like Mothers Against Contaminated Food and so on. And they are very active. So, the resistance has become much stronger.

I believe many demonstrations at this time were heavily suppressed by the police, at Cattenom in France and in Germany, for example. Have the tactics of the anti-nuclear movement changed because of this or for any other reason?

At Cattenom the police have become much more restrained. They aren’t as provocative as before but that of course also depends on the demonstration. If no one interferes the demonstration, people who provoke confrontations, then everything proceeds peacefully. We’ve only had peaceful demonstrations at Cattenom.

Have the various national nuclear industries lost credibility since the accident?

Yes, of course. I always speak of the second nuclear accident, that the politicians want to minimize the catastrophe and the effects. One can again feel a very massive trend towards nuclear power everywhere, but mainly in Germany and France. In Germany the antinuclear movement is very strong but so too is the will to extend the nuclear industry. In France the population wasn’t as sensitive but they are slowly getting there. In the last poll 52 per cent of the French were against the nuclear industry. Here in Luxemburg it is 80 per cent.

Did Chernobyl have a lasting effect on the governments and political parties of Europe?

Actually only on the socialist and green parties. The conservatives still have a very strong pro-nuclear stance.

Did it have any positive effect for Europeans?

Yes, but one can’t say immediately. It is somehow positive. I myself feel that I have become rehabilitated as an anti-nuclear activist. One isn’t seen as a ‘Luddite’ or as someone who is anti-progress. They have accused us of wanting to go back to the trees! But now you can answer ‘If you want to go back to the trees you can’t, there aren’t any left’. Because the forests are dying as well. So in this regard it’s somewhat positive. All the anti-nuclear activists were proven right. But it still has to develop a whole lot in the parties and the population. The people still aren’t active enough. They’ve all woken up but they aren’t active enough to pressure the politicians.

You are a wine grower on the Mosel in Luxemburg. What were the agricultural effects of the accident generally and on you personally?

For us personally, nothing yet. Luxemburg was the least contaminated. We have radiation levels in the milk of 10 bequerel per litre. In Bavaria and Austria it is 100 bequerel. In Sweden and Finland the contamination was worse. Here in Luxemburg, and in France and Portugal, it was somewhat weaker. Although the contamination isn’t as life threatening as in other areas it does have some consequences. One is forced to eat everything. One just has to be careful not to buy from areas where the contamination is worse.

I think recently there was a meeting in Luxembourg of so called experts from the European Economic Council (EEC) who wanted to raise the acceptable levels to 2000 Bq/Kg. Have you heard something about that?

In Russia an American doctor, De Gafo, has said that people can deal with more radiation than first thought, that you can raise the ‘acceptable levels’. These levels are political levels. They aren’t determined for the protection of the population, they are set for flexible use so that industry can work in a flexible way. That’s why they determine acceptable levels. Naturally, if they raise the levels for foodstuffs, that is a sign that foodstuffs are still highly contaminated and that they’re raising the levels so that there is no economic damage for some industries.

So you see that as somewhat cynical?

Yes, of course, because tolerances doses begin at zero. There is no cut off level which is not dangerous.

Would you like to say anything else?

Yes I’d like to make an appeal to Australia not to export uranium, because uranium only causes misfortune and destruction. It would be a great help if the uranium export would be stopped. If people continually exercise moral pressure then one eventually gets results. Here in Luxemburg we’ve been able to prevent an atomic power station.
Help Close the Gap

The Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC) was formed in Sydney last December as a National Conference organised by the anti-bases groups in each state. Over 70 organisations were represented at this meeting and the Coalition now comprises over 100 groups nationwide.

One of the main undertakings of the Coalition this year is the organisation of a camp and protest actions at Pine Gap in October. A Coalition affiliate, the Alice Springs Peace Group (ASPG), is inviting people from all around Australia to participate in a week of forums, workshops and action culminating in non-violent direct action and civil disobedience on 19 October.

The ASPG workshops will include discussion of non-violent direct action and Intending participants are advised to form affinity groups as soon as possible to prepare for the 19 October action.

The Coalition expects many people to travel to Alice Springs for the October protest but also intends to organise protests in the capital cities as well as in regional areas.

Camping and Accommodation

The ASPG has made a block booking at the Heavitree Gap Caravan Park and Motel, where a campsite for up to 50 people has been reserved between 13 and 20 October. This caravan park is located 3 kilometres from the town centre on the banks of the Todd River. It features powered caravan sites and air-conditioned vans. The camping areas are grassed and some have electricity. There is also an LPG, a large laundromat, a barbecued area, an STD phone, a swimmable pool, a food stand and a campfire area.

It will be necessary to identify the group individually as coming for the Alice Springs Peace Group activities in order to obtain the discount rates. For further information, ring: Alice Springs, 5751.

Atomic Oceans

by Margaret Howes

At a recent symposium of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War held in Auckland, New Zealand, a biophysicist professor from the University of Paris, Dr Bohor, said that after 22 years of testing, Mururoa Atoll was seriously damaged. The need to place more recent tests deeper into the deteriorating rock had made it technically impracticable for many more blasts to be conducted.

At the same symposium an Auckland engineering professor, Michael O'Sullivan, said that serious radioactive leaks would begin to leak from the atoll lagoon and into the ocean within the next ten to 15 years. His findings on major cracking of the volcanic base contradicted French claims that no leakage would occur for at least 1 000 to 10 000 years. Sources within the French army and scientists from its geology and biology. Last year a French Navy while fishing near the islands. Skipper John Chadderton and first officer Alister Annadale have said that serious radioactivity via a subterranean ridge with the US.

The Kerguelen Islands are in the southern extremity of the Indian Ocean, 3 400 kilometres south west of Western Australia, is identical. The Kerguelen Islands are located 3 kilometres from the town centre on the banks of the Todd River. It features powered caravan sites and air-conditioned vans. The camping areas are grassed and some have electricity.

The ASPG has made a block booking at the Heavitree Gap Caravan Park and Motel, where a campsite for up to 50 people has been reserved between 13 and 20 October. This caravan park is located 3 kilometres from the town centre on the banks of the Todd River. It features powered caravan sites and air-conditioned vans. The camping areas are grassed and some have electricity.

The Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition (AABCC) was formed in Sydney last December as a National Conference organised by the anti-bases groups in each state. Over 70 organisations were represented at this meeting and the Coalition now comprises over 100 groups nationwide.

One of the main undertakings of the Coalition this year is the organisation of a camp and protest actions at Pine Gap in October. A Coalition affiliate, the Alice Springs Peace Group (ASPG), is inviting people from all around Australia to participate in a week of forums, workshops and action culminating in non-violent direct action and civil disobedience on 19 October.

The ASPG workshops will include discussion of non-violent direct action and Intending participants are advised to form affinity groups as soon as possible to prepare for the 19 October action.

The Coalition expects many people to travel to Alice Springs for the October protest but also intends to organise protests in the capital cities as well as in regional areas.

Camping and Accommodation

The ASPG has made a block booking at the Heavitree Gap Caravan Park and Motel, where a campsite for up to 50 people has been reserved between 13 and 20 October. This caravan park is located 3 kilometres from the town centre on the banks of the Todd River. It features powered caravan sites and air-conditioned vans. The camping areas are grassed and some have electricity. There is also an LPG, a large laundromat, a barbecued area, an STD phone, a swimmable pool, a food stand and a campfire area.

It will be necessary to identify the group individually as coming for the Alice Springs Peace Group activities in order to obtain the discount rates. For further information, ring: Alice Springs, 5751.
The South African and Israeli connections

The South African Government has become embroiled in an international outcry regarding military development on their territory of Marion Island, midway between the African mainland and Antarctica. Dr Frank Barnaby, a former director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, believes that South Africa probably exploded a nuclear test device in the area in 1979. Many experts believed this was conducted by South African scientists with Israeli assistance. Speculation about joint South African-Israeli nuclear cooperation has increased recently following revelations from Mendelech Varnau, the nuclear technician who appeared in court recently after being spirited out of Britain. He told reporters in London that Israeli nuclear scientists frequently visited South Africa. During the past two years scientists based on Marion Island have reported visits by South African and Israeli military personnel.

The South African Minister for Environmental Affairs and Fisheries, Mr John Wiley, after initially denying any knowledge of a plan to build an airstrip on the island has since confirmed that an ecological evaluation was underway. Apart from the possible siting of a nuclear missile testing site on Marion Island, the building and maintaining of an airstrip for Hercules transport aircraft on an island which has known nothing more than foot traffic would be an environmental disaster.

In 1971 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a resolution which declared that 'the Indian Ocean, within limits to be determined, together with the airspace above and the ocean floor adjacent thereto, be designated for all time as a zone of peace.' This declaration called for the elimination of all bases, military installations, nuclear weapons and so forth. The following year the Ad Hoc committee on the Indian Ocean was established. In December 1981 the General Assembly expressed its regret that this Committee had failed to reach a consensus on the finalisation of the dates for the convening of a conference on the Indian Ocean—a necessity for the implementation of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. In 1983 the same regret was expressed and to date the idea has not progressed any further.

The Antarctic Treaty states in Article Five that 'any nuclear explosions in Antarctica and the disposal there of radioactive waste material shall be prohibited'. Both France and South Africa are signatories to this treaty. However, this treaty only applies to areas south of 60 degrees south latitude. Kerguelen Islands and Marion Island both lie north of this.

The Antarctic Treaty recognised the importance of conservation and, in 1964 at the third Antarctic Treaty Consultative meeting, signed the Agreed Measures for the Conservation of Antarctic Flora and Fauna. Additions and amendments are made by recommendations from the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR). SCAR is part of a non-governmental international Council of Scientific Unions and the subantarctic islands fall within the SCAR area of influence although all are under effective national control.

Another conservation measure is the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which was signed in Canberra in 1980. The boundaries for CCAMLR were established to approximate the Southern Ocean and seeks to develop an 'ecosystem approach' to life in the Antarctic. One example is the Australian Southern Ocean Marine Living Resources Centre (ASOMLRC) which includes France and South Africa, recognising the importance of safeguarding an environment and protecting the integrity of the ecosystem of the seas surrounding Antarctica' and believe 'that it is in the interest of all mankind (sic) to preserve the waters surrounding the Antarctic continent for peaceful purposes only and to prevent their becoming the scene or object of international discord.' The Kerguelen Islands and Marion Island are within the CCAMLR area of influence although, again, remain under national control.

The Indian and Southern Oceans can be protected from this latest ecological insanity by strengthening CCAMLR to become more than another fishing treaty. It already provides an opportunity to deal constructively with environmental, conservation and political issues.

The Antarctic Treaty has, because of its nuclear free provision, been an example of scientific and political ideals for peaceful purposes in a spirit of goodwill and friendship. The governments of the treaty nations together with non-treaty nations must be convinced through peace, disarmament and environmental groups such as Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, that this is an example to implement a nuclear free Southern and Indian Ocean Treaty as a step to protect the total nuclear disarmament on this planet.

References
1. The Age 1/12/87
2. The Australian 1/12/84
3. New Zealand Sunday Times 4/1/87
4. The Observer 30/12/86
5. The Age 1/12/87
6. The Australian 1/12/84
7. New Zealand Sunday Times 4/1/87
8. The Observer 30/12/86

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH GROUPS

NEW SOUTH WALES
Blue Mountains: 156 Megalong St. Leura, NSW 2780
Macquarie University, C/- SRC, Union Building, Macquarie University, North Ryde, NSW 2113
Newtown: P O Box 169, Newtown NSW 2042, Ph: (02) 517 2159
Ryde: 18 Kokoda St, North Ryde, NSW 2113, Ph: (02) 88 2429
Sydney: P O Box 4474, Sydney, NSW 2000, Ph: (02) 211 3953
University of New England: C/- SRC, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351
University of Sydney: P O Box 364, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006

NORTHERN TERRITORY
Darwin: P O Box 2120, Darwin, NT 5794, Ph: (08) 816222

VICTORIA
Collingwood: 366 Smith St, Collingwood Vic 3066, Ph: (03) 419 8700
Oakleigh: 69 Waratah St, South Oakleigh Vic 3166
Sydney: P O Box 4474, Sydney, NSW 2000, Ph: (02) 211 3953
University of New England: C/- SRC, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351
University of Sydney: P O Box 364, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, NSW 2006

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
Canberra: P O Box 1875, Canberra, ACT 2601

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Adelaide: 120 Wakefield St, Adelaide SA 5000
University of Adelaide: C/- Clubs Association, Adelaide University, SA 5000, Ph: (08) 228 5852
Williamina: P O Box 438, Williamina SA 5172
Williamstown: C/- Post Office, Williamstown SA 5351

Subscription Rates
$16 for 6 issues
$12 (conc)
Overseas airmail: double above rates
Des Wilson

Des Wilson, International Campaign Director of Friends of the Earth, will be in Australia in July this year. He will be speaking at public meetings organised by FOE Sydney and FOE Collingwood. He will be placing local issues in a global context, drawing out the root causes of world poverty and injustice, environmental degradation and the threat of nuclear war, and providing hope by enunciating where analysis and action can and do make a difference. In a recent paper on the 'fate of the earth', Des Wilson explains the importance of environmental issues.

A while back I had to travel from the UK to New Zealand and back, circling the planet. It was an opportunity to observe all of the continents from high above, and I was left with two contradictory impressions. From the viewpoint of just one individual the planet is colossal, its resources apparently unlimited. But, if you look at the planet the habitat of the entire human race, its multitude of species, and to generations to come. But it's not all gloomy, according to the World Resources Report, notwithstanding the formidable challenges posed by population growth, widespread resource degradation, and diverse sources of pollution, there are few, if any, problems on the horizon that are in any fundamental sense unsolvable. Just the same, to solve problems you have to face them — there is the need to create public knowledge of the nature of the crisis and possible solutions. Because it is lack of political will, national and international political will that stands in the way of radical action.

Friends of the Earth is just one of the many organisations concerned to develop this popular knowledge and will. Primarily an environmental movement, it understands the links with the causes of peace, sustainable growth in the third world, and control of power.

There are many myths about environmentalism:

- that environmentalism is a cause for the privileged — yet it is the poor who suffer most from environmental damage and pollution.
- that environmentalists are negative — we have for years proposed the only viable longer term strategies. Environmentalists don't just say 'stop pollution' but also develop environmentally sound technologies. We don't just say 'stop exhausting non-renewable resources' but share limited resources fairly or develop sustainable uses for renewable resources.
- that environmentalism is a fringe issue, that it is of no equal importance to that of peace, or third world poverty, or the problems we live with day by day in the developed world.

All of these are inter-related and environmental issues are central, fundamental and deserve the highest priority in our lives.

A full copy of the text is available from the FOE Collingwood office.

Des Wilson is:
- Campaign Director for Friends of the Earth International. (He was Chairperson of FOR UK 1982-90)
- Co-chairperson of the CAMPAIGN FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
- Campaign Advisor (and former Chairperson) to CLEAR, the Campaign for Lead Free Air
- Member of the Board of SHELTER, the National Campaign for the Homeless, and of the Council of the International Year for Shelter for the Homeless 1987
- Vice-president of the ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY
- President of the LIBERAL PARTY (1986-87)

He was born in New Zealand in 1941, is a journalist by training, and became widely known in Britain for his campaigning activities in the late 1960s onwards. As a journalist he has been a columnist with the Guardian (1966-71) and The Observer (1971-75), was editor of Social Work Today (1971-79) and Deputy Director of The Illustrated London News (1979-81).

So don't miss him in Australia:
- Public Meeting — Sydney, Wednesday 29 July
- Public Meeting — Melbourne, Friday, 31 July.

In the middle of last year, a soft energy group was established at Friends of the Earth Collingwood with the aim to reduce the developing world's reliance on the nuclear option, and to prove that the soft energy path provides a means of solving the energy and environmental problems. As a result, there was little or no response. In the media after the Chernobyl nuclear accident which argued for a sustainable energy future.

Similarly, while publicity material against the nuclear fuel cycle is readily available to environmental and environmental groups, this is not the case for recent information on soft energy. As a result, we produced our booklet Soft Energy, a 19 page cracker which appeared in Chain Reaction 48. (Copies are still available at 20 cents with discounts for bulk orders.) We also undertook to include an article in each subsequent issue of Chain Reaction which would, over a number of issues, provide a good source of relevant material for individuals and groups on the potential for sustainable energy.

In conjunction with the energy supply question we see it as important to raise questions to which energy is inextricably linked, such as national equity, for example. How can we in the 'developed world' continue to justify consuming energy of orders of magnitude more than the majority of the world's population, especially when much of this energy is consumed to satisfy a trivial and materialistic lifestyle?

Furthermore, failure to develop renewable energy systems in the technologically advanced countries inevitably leads the developing world to consider a nuclear option which appears as the only viable alternative.

On a political level in this country, energy has a low profile. This is despite the fact that Bass Strait output is declining and the mid 1980s massive imports of liquid fuel will be necessary with subsequent deleterious effects on our economy. While doubt the two Shanahan technological monsters of synthetic liquid fuel from shale and from coal, they are reviewing the near distant future. The consequences of this sort of technological front are far-reaching and should be frightening for all of us in the environment movement.

Alternative do's and we intend to campaign around these issues to support a soft energy society as a real option for energy Australia.

We are currently working on a 25 minute slide video which should be completed late 1987. This will be an important educational aid for schools and environmental groups.

We would welcome feedback on this issue from Chain Reaction readers and most importantly new members are needed for our group. Specialist knowledge in the area is not required as everyone has useful skills of one sort or another. In addition these will enable new members to become well versed in the issues. The formal commitment is usually once evening meeting per month.

Further information: contact Claire Henderson (03) 419 3870 or contact the FOE group in your State or Territory.
Watt Way?

Is a renewable energy supply for South Australia possible? FOE Adelaide has produced a booklet outlining some options. Bert King offers his comments.

Antarctic Freeze

The rush is on for the material wealth of the Antarctic. But as countries scramble for oil and minerals, Greenpeace is demanding that the Antarctic be saved as a World Park for everybody, now and in the future. To this end Greenpeace is attempting to set up its own Antarctic research base. Trevor Daly explains.

Antarctica, with its unique wildlife, astounding landscapes and ancient beds of moss and lichens, is endangered. As with many other areas on our fragile planet, the threat comes from human greed. In 1986 the Antarctic Treaty nations came dangerously close to concluding a minerals regime - a mutual agreement which would allow mineral and oil development in Antarctica. Antarctica is not only the world's last pristine wilderness but plays vital role in controlling global climate. Its rich seas provide nutrients to the world's oceans and its age-old ice-cap holds the secrets of the world's past, allowing us to monitor how we are collectively poisoning the earth.

But today as the world's resources are being squandered, attention has turned to Antarctica. The oceans of Antarctica have a history of over-exploitation. In the nineteenth century, Antarctic fur and elephant seals were decimated by sealers and earlier this century it was the whales, such as the Blue and the Humpback, which were hunted to the verge of extinction. Today some fish stocks have been wiped out by the Soviet, Eastern European and Asian fishing fleets.

However, mining is potentially the most serious threat facing Antarctica. In December 1986, New Zealand geologists discovered the first firm evidence of petroleum deposits below the seabed twelve kilometres off VictoriaLand in Antarctica. Although it was not an oil find, later analysis proved that oil and gas were once trapped there only to eventually leak out. Meanwhile Japan, France, West Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States are also searching for oil in the Antarctic whilst the USSR and South Africa are preparing for platinum.

The New Zealand discovery, in an area free of ice during much of the summer, has come amid the latest round of international negotiations in which governments are now deciding the legal and political frameworks to facilitate mineral exploration in Antarctica. The consequences of mineral exploitation would be disastrous. The inevitable effects of mining - port facilities, pipelines, oil spills and accidents - would wreak havoc on the sensitive Antarctic environment.

Greenpeace is one of many environmental groups which, along with nations not party to the Antarctic Treaty, are adamantly opposed to oil and mineral exploration in the sensitive Antarctic ecosystem. Instead, Greenpeace is calling for Antarctica to be preserved in the form of a "World Park", as a heritage for future generations. The principles behind this idea are that:

- wilderness values, plant and animal life be protected.
- the Antarctic remain a zone of peace, free from nuclear and other weapons.
- Antarctica remain a place where scientists from all nations can meet and work together.

On 6 January Greenpeace, a converted ocean-going tug, left New Zealand for Ross Island in Antarctica where Greenpeace established the first permanent non-government base in the Antarctic. A team of three Greenpeace women will stay at the base through the long Antarctic winter, conducting research and monitoring the extent of human encroachment on the environment.

By establishing a presence in Antarctica, Greenpeace hopes to highlight the concerns of people throughout the world who are preservationists. In the words of Greenpeace, saving Antarctica is not just saving a continent - it is saving the planet. We are all the custodians of the Antarctic, and we are all called upon to protect the Antarctic wilderness, plant and animal life for future generations.
A Long Drought Ahead?

by Peter Christoff

Speculators will ruin this last wild place, few will protest, for profit easier conscience. In thirty years there will be nothing to distinguish this from mined and gated countries anywhere. Our leaders will betray us, sell our heritage, what remains is not worth stealing, and so becomes an Army weapons range. Outback Michael Dransfield

For the past three decades, environmental activism has been buoyed by a climate of economic optimism which simultaneously fuelled an illusion of environmental growth and made some of the solutions easily affordable. Now, the chill winds of economic austerity and political conservatism threaten to erode the reserves of sympathy on which the environment movement has operated.

Three immediate consequences of this change in climate include:

• a renewed vigil in campaigns for resource exploitation and environmental deregulation;

• the likelihood of cuts in funding for community-sector organisations, including environment groups; and,

• the potential loss of support for conservation in certain sectors of the community.

The great debt that Australia has accumulated with the rest of the world, now reliably stated to be near $100 billion, is a heritage far less acceptable to me and my fellow Australians than some backhanded wilderness pocket, or one yet to be discovered, that lays claim to bewildering values.

Australia’s severe current account deficit adds force to industry’s pressure to exploit our national resources. Community organisations, including environment groups, have served to systematically exclude broader community participation in our political processes. This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

Political efficacy

Traditionally, the environment movement has relied upon its power to mobilise people to transform existing political party policies. This pressure-gauge tactic has relied upon the major two parties having competing platforms. This distinction is no longer clear cut on environmental issues.

In the absence of a credible socially progressive alternative, Labor Governments, both State and Federal, are increasingly willing to implement programs rejected by their own constituency. They do so because they believe there is room for this view to go except to even more conservative parties such as the Liberals — an option unpalatable to most traditional Labor voters.

Labor’s cynicism fails to recognise that some swinging votes were won from the Liberals in the first place, on the basis of these environmental programs. Such votes may return to them if there is little to distinguish the two parties. It also fails to register mounting concern about the political vacuum created by the ALP but not yet the foundations for a united social movement or of parliamentary action based on a coherent alternative program.

In the absence of concerted pressure to alter existing party policies, the environment movement must look increasingly to the labor movement and to popular movements, such as the women’s movement, to establish links with conservation groups.

In effect, conservative forces within the ALP and the ALP’s trade unions machine have tried to isolate the environment movement from linkages with organised labour.

The particular effects of the balance-of-payments problem, and of deregulation, will not be easily or quickly reversed. As a result, until a coherent alternative economic critique and political program is established, environmentalists can expect these conditions to continue to shape the political climate for conservation for some time to come.

This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

PEACE AND ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENTS

A Long Drought Ahead?

by Peter Christoff

Speculators will ruin this last wild place, few will protest, for profit easier conscience. In thirty years there will be nothing to distinguish this from mined and gated countries anywhere. Our leaders will betray us, sell our heritage, what remains is not worth stealing, and so becomes an Army weapons range. Outback Michael Dransfield

For the past three decades, environmental activism has been buoyed by a climate of economic optimism which simultaneously fuelled an illusion of environmental growth and made some of the solutions easily affordable. Now, the chill winds of economic austerity and political conservatism threaten to erode the reserves of sympathy on which the environment movement has operated.

Three immediate consequences of this change in climate include:

• a renewed vigil in campaigns for resource exploitation and environmental deregulation;

• the likelihood of cuts in funding for community-sector organisations, including environment groups; and,

• the potential loss of support for conservation in certain sectors of the community.

The great debt that Australia has accumulated with the rest of the world, now reliably stated to be near $100 billion, is a heritage far less acceptable to me and my fellow Australians than some backhanded wilderness pocket, or one yet to be discovered, that lays claim to bewildering values.

Australia’s severe current account deficit adds force to industry’s pressure to exploit our national resources. Community organisations, including environment groups, have served to systematically exclude broader community participation in our political processes. This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

Political efficacy

Traditionally, the environment movement has relied upon its power to mobilise people to transform existing political party policies. This pressure-gauge tactic has relied upon the major two parties having competing platforms. This distinction is no longer clear cut on environmental issues.

In the absence of a credible socially progressive alternative, Labor Governments, both State and Federal, are increasingly willing to implement programs rejected by their own constituency. They do so because they believe there is room for this view to go except to even more conservative parties such as the Liberals — an option unpalatable to most traditional Labor voters.

Labor’s cynicism fails to recognise that some swinging votes were won from the Liberals in the first place, on the basis of these environmental programs. Such votes may return to them if there is little to distinguish the two parties. It also fails to register mounting concern about the political vacuum created by the ALP but not yet the foundations for a united social movement or of parliamentary action based on a coherent alternative program.

In the absence of concerted pressure to alter existing party policies, the environment movement must look increasingly to the labor movement and to popular movements, such as the women’s movement, to establish links with conservation groups.

In effect, conservative forces within the ALP and the ALP’s trade unions machine have tried to isolate the environment movement from linkages with organised labour.

The particular effects of the balance-of-payments problem, and of deregulation, will not be easily or quickly reversed. As a result, until a coherent alternative economic critique and political program is established, environmentalists can expect these conditions to continue to shape the political climate for conservation for some time to come.

This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

Political efficacy

Traditionally, the environment movement has relied upon its power to mobilise people to transform existing political party policies. This pressure-gauge tactic has relied upon the major two parties having competing platforms. This distinction is no longer clear cut on environmental issues.

In the absence of a credible socially progressive alternative, Labor Governments, both State and Federal, are increasingly willing to implement programs rejected by their own constituency. They do so because they believe there is room for this view to go except to even more conservative parties such as the Liberals — an option unpalatable to most traditional Labor voters.

Labor’s cynicism fails to recognise that some swinging votes were won from the Liberals in the first place, on the basis of these environmental programs. Such votes may return to them if there is little to distinguish the two parties. It also fails to register mounting concern about the political vacuum created by the ALP but not yet the foundations for a united social movement or of parliamentary action based on a coherent alternative program.

In the absence of concerted pressure to alter existing party policies, the environment movement must look increasingly to the labor movement and to popular movements, such as the women’s movement, to establish links with conservation groups.

In effect, conservative forces within the ALP and the ALP’s trade unions machine have tried to isolate the environment movement from linkages with organised labour.

The particular effects of the balance-of-payments problem, and of deregulation, will not be easily or quickly reversed. As a result, until a coherent alternative economic critique and political program is established, environmentalists can expect these conditions to continue to shape the political climate for conservation for some time to come.

This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

Political efficacy

Traditionally, the environment movement has relied upon its power to mobilise people to transform existing political party policies. This pressure-gauge tactic has relied upon the major two parties having competing platforms. This distinction is no longer clear cut on environmental issues.

In the absence of a credible socially progressive alternative, Labor Governments, both State and Federal, are increasingly willing to implement programs rejected by their own constituency. They do so because they believe there is room for this view to go except to even more conservative parties such as the Liberals — an option unpalatable to most traditional Labor voters.

Labor’s cynicism fails to recognise that some swinging votes were won from the Liberals in the first place, on the basis of these environmental programs. Such votes may return to them if there is little to distinguish the two parties. It also fails to register mounting concern about the political vacuum created by the ALP but not yet the foundations for a united social movement or of parliamentary action based on a coherent alternative program.

In the absence of concerted pressure to alter existing party policies, the environment movement must look increasingly to the labor movement and to popular movements, such as the women’s movement, to establish links with conservation groups.

In effect, conservative forces within the ALP and the ALP’s trade unions machine have tried to isolate the environment movement from linkages with organised labour.

The particular effects of the balance-of-payments problem, and of deregulation, will not be easily or quickly reversed. As a result, until a coherent alternative economic critique and political program is established, environmentalists can expect these conditions to continue to shape the political climate for conservation for some time to come.

This climate affects environment groups and campaigns in several ways. It presents at least three closely interrelated areas of critical concern for the environment movement.

These relate to:

• political efficacy;

• financial viability; and

• legitimacy and credibility of such groups and campaigns.

Political efficacy

Traditionally, the environment movement has relied upon its power to mobilise people to transform existing political party policies. This pressure-gauge tactic has relied upon the major two parties having competing platforms. This distinction is no longer clear cut on environmental issues.

In the absence of a credible socially progressive alternative, Labor Governments, both State and Federal, are increasingly willing to implement programs rejected by their own constituency. They do so because they believe there is room for this view to go except to even more conservative parties such as the Liberals — an option unpalatable to most traditional Labor voters.

Labor’s cynicism fails to recognise that some swinging votes were won from the Liberals in the first place, on the basis of these environmental programs. Such votes may return to them if there is little to distinguish the two parties. It also fails to register mounting concern about the political vacuum created by the ALP but not yet the foundations for a united social movement or of parliamentary action based on a coherent alternative program.

In the absence of concerted pressure to alter existing party policies, the environment movement must look increasingly to the labor movement and to popular movements, such as the women’s movement, to establish links with conservation groups.

In effect, conservative forces within the ALP and the ALP’s trade unions machine have tried to isolate the environment movement from linkages with organised labour.
Elections are few and far between and the potential for creating a new and credible parliamentary force in the short term is limited. Creative ideas are needed for the time when elections. The environment movement has developed new strategies for effective extraparliamentary action. Reliance on blockades and on the media for accurate and sympathetic publicity has limitations — especially while the environment movement continues to act in isolation from other potentially supportive groups.

Financial Viability

While Federal funding for government environment activity has more than doubled since 1974-75, the Hawke Government has not yet restored funding to voluntary conservation organisations to the level, in real terms, provided by the Whitlam Government in 1974-75. Given the important and cost-effective role played by those groups, this is a major concern.

Central to the survival of major conservation organisations — the ACF for instance only receives 10 per cent of its total budget from Federal Government, while its yearly budget of $3.5 million in a nationally coordinated attempt to discredit conservationists, painting them as irrationally operating to gain economic climate all suggest new openings, which the 'environment movement' could convert to its advantage.

Given that any formal alliance to the Democrats or the ALP would compromise the movement overall and lead to political retribution when an alternative government is elected. It is time to re-examine this problem in the light of the converging behaviour of the two major parties and the 11 July Federal election.

Successful parliamentary political action depends on a strong movement and campaigns. No party will act without a clear indication of popular support for a policy. It is equally important to recognise that the parliamentary sphere is not the only, or necessarily the most important, forum for political or economic decision making. Accordingly, the environment movement should not be trapped into overemphasising this arena and should resist a strong commitment to public campaigning and education, as well as to extensive lobbying.

Bearing these points in mind, careful consideration should be given — in the aftermath of the election now looming — to the range of approaches which can be developed for parliamentary action in the longer term. These considerations should include:

- an ongoing campaign to influence the preselection of future candidates of other parties at local, State and Federal levels of government, according to a coherent and well-defined program of progressive policies;
- for this new political formation to stand its own candidates on the basis of such a program, especially in Senate elections.

In this broader context, it would be valuable for the movement to articulate detailed national and State-level policies (on economic development — e.g., in the timber industry, agricultural production, chemicals, etc.). It is only when the environment movement, along with other progressive social movements, have shown that they have a competitive alternative to the policies offered by the current parties, that they will begin to have commensurate influence on the parliamentary process.

Internationalising the environment movement

The Australian environment movement is breathtakingly insular. Like other parts of Australian culture, we retain a First World perspective, blinkered by our Eurocentric colonialism. The Australian environment movement continues to disregard this area. Its great danger is not only to betray its extremely narrow-middle-class bias, but also to lose greatly to the detractors of the movement overall.
The causes of environmental degradation in many cases transcend State and national boundaries. For example, the impact of mining, woodchipping, timber and paper demand and consumption all make better sense when viewed in the context of the economies of the Pacific region and the demands of the international corporations controlling them. The problem of rainforest clearance in West Papua, or forest-related projects are a good example — many issues are still being tackled individually. The need for coordinated research and policy areas which require attention include:

- flora and fauna conservation
- protection of the natural environment (forests, landscapes etc.)
- resource management (including oil, mineral, forest)
- environmental education
- transport
- urban development and conservation of the built environment
- energy
- industrial waste management
- toxic and hazardous chemicals

It is time for us to set up an independent environmental research organisation — similar to those existing in the USA — where credible and serious research could be done to provide back-up to the movement at large. This would be similar in general intention and autonomy to the Peace Research Centre established in Canberra.

The movement should establish Conservation Registers at the State and National levels to record the achievements and failings of Government authorities at all levels through a system of reporting based on the movement’s grassroots organisations. This would provide a comprehensive catalogue of information from which to assess and publicly comment on the performance of particular governments — especially during elections. The movement should also be able to draw on the experience of other small-scale ‘environment reporting systems’ as has been done by the non-government organisations in the USA, and elsewhere. This would be invaluable for clear indication of the breadth and diversity of support and the movement’s focus.

An immediate advantage of such an approach would be the clear indication of the breadth and diversity of support for fundamental principles, aims and goals. Through this support would come greater political strength for those involved, often small groups which pursue a particular issue within the scope of a widely endorsed policy, and it would be a basis for agreements with other movements.

There may seem an impossibly large, and organisationally unmanageable task. Two things should be considered here.

1. First, the environment movement — through its State and national organisations — could set up a formal process by which such policies can be established. The ACF and the State Conservation Councils are well placed to pursue the wide-ranging consultation necessary.

Second, a process could be established to make constructive contact with other formal organisations, for instance aid and Third World development agencies, the Land Rights movement, and especially the labour movement at State level in a number of industry areas (transport, chemical, energy, timber).

Research

There is a great deal of duplication of research between different agencies, and of course between the same agencies but in different fields. The need for coordinated research is urgent and should be developed. However, the issues of bureaucratic inertia are ever present in such an approach.

Many other problems remain beyond the scope of this article. The environment movement’s generally (uncritical?) reliance on the State’s legislative and regulatory processes occasionally led it into some unnecessary and fruitless negotiations. The State’s relationship to capital remains unexamined in the main, as does the political dynamic of policy formulation by Governments, and parties both in and out of power. What sort of legislative reforms are required to secure environmental guarantees in the institutional frameworks of government? What sort of positions, strengths and skills are needed for effective bargaining or political clout?

The need for a unified environment movement, with strong links with other progressive social movements and a clear political strategy to counter the conservative influence of government, union and industry policies, is becoming more urgent. So too is a comprehensive political movement with the credibility and the intellectual and physical resources to tackle the larger national and Asia-Pacific regional issues which are swamped in the minutia of localised concerns.

Notes

4. The Victorian Ministry for Conservation, Forests and Lands’ Forest Education Service, in co-operation with the Forest Industry Advisory Council, is one example.
Films
The Journey is a fourteen and a half hour film directed by Peter Watkins which had its Australian premiere in June 1987.

Reviewed by Richard Tanter.

How can I tell you about The Journey, Peter Watkins' new film about the world and nuclear war? It's not easy, even though it's an extraordinary film, and the most important project I've ever been associated with. I can tell you the facts easily. The Journey is mainly about a dozen families in ten different countries. It's about their views and feelings, not those of experts. It opens up all the issues of power and emotion related to nuclear war, rather than closing them down. It was made by Watkins with support groups around the world and financed by community support. I can tell you that it's fourteen and a half hours long, and is to be viewed in a number of parts with plenty of time for breaks and discussion.

But that doesn't really tell you why The Journey is so extraordinary, why it is of concern to people all over the world. It is of concern to those who were involved in making it over such a long time. Those facts don't explain why it is of more concern to people than even more important to the peace movement around the world than Peter's 1966 Oscar-winning documentary, The War Game.

The Journey is not like any other film — but then neither is its subject and their anger about the half hour Watkins which had its Australian though it's an extraordinary film, and been associated with. I the most important project I've ever countries. It's about their views and

Reviewed by Richard Tanter.

How can I tell you about The Journey, Peter Watkins' new film about the world and nuclear war? It's not easy, even though it's an extraordinary film, and the most important project I've ever been associated with. I can tell you the facts easily. The Journey is mainly about a dozen families in ten different countries. It's about their views and feelings, not those of experts. It opens up all the issues of power and emotion related to nuclear war, rather than closing them down. It was made by Watkins with support groups around the world and financed by community support. I can tell you that it's fourteen and a half hours long, and is to be viewed in a number of parts with plenty of time for breaks and discussion.

But that doesn't really tell you why The Journey is so extraordinary, why it is of concern to people all over the world. It is of concern to those who were involved in making it over such a long time. Those facts don't explain why it is of more concern to people than even more important to the peace movement around the world than Peter's 1966 Oscar-winning documentary, The War Game.

The Journey is not like any other film — but then neither is its subject and their anger about the half hour Watkins which had its Australian though it's an extraordinary film, and been associated with. I the most important project I've ever countries. It's about their views and
that there are at least two ways for something to go unnoticed. One is because it is too small, the other is because it is too big — our field of vision does not extend to its edges. Perhaps this affair takes the form of the latter. Peter Wright's seeking of this fifteen thousand mile perspective in Tasmania makes sense in these terms.

But how could this liaison come about? What would bring the conservative British establishment to secretly befriend the world's most developed communist nation, on the face of it, their worst enemy? Perhaps Britain's sense of sympathy with Russia as each fought imperialized at the borders of the Third Reich planted something deep, lasting and misanthropic of America in the British establishment's outlook. Perhaps the behaviour of the US during the Falkland Islands conflict has reawakened this attitude and the British Lion, despite language and ideology, is casting its eye around for a geographically closer or more stalwart ally.

Peter Wright's A Spy's Revenge is interesting as a study in doublethink and would not be out of place as a novel. One wonders, however, what kind of research is required to build a fully functioning political intelligence officer. The story of the Kekule, the German chemist who first worked out that benzene's structure was shaped like a ring after a particular dream:

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

No more, no salvation, nothing exists, that's not what they, their brilliant employee Kekule have taken the Serpent to mean. No, what the Serpent means is in this one fact curled around into a closed ring, just like that snake with its tail in its mouth. Get it?

The question this article started with was "What is the real nature of synthesis?" This must partly be a question because the science and its possibilities. If science has become a necessary gear in the technological machine and knowledge a control mechanism, then is science capable of seeing the Great Serpent as anything other than a six-atom carbon ring to be broken and rebuilt into whatever new molecule a market can be found for? The implication of such thoughts is that science is a very particular tool which is only capable of giving particular answers. It is a tool for increasing our control of the world, and that is its fundamental premise. In doing science we identify ourselves as outside biological cycles, not part of the chain, more important than other forms of life.

The Poised Womb might itself have been a parable of the problems of dealing in these terms of science. If there are 'possibilities for a different kind of science' are basically unexamined by the scientists dealing with the findings cautiously and ambivalently. Toxicology testing provides a fascinating difficulty in dealing with any problem in its whole­ness — the enormous complexity of biology and chemistry. Synthesis in science involves one Kekule, the German chemist who first worked out that benzene's structure was shaped like a ring after a particular dream:

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

The Poisoned Womb, a book on a topical subject and well worth a read.

Justin Moore is a FOE activitst.

The Poisoned Womb
by John Elkington
Pelican Books, Melbourne
1986, 255pp, $11.95

Reviewed by Chris Sanderson.

If you want the truth — I know I do — you must look into the technology of these matters. Even into the hearts of companies, in which we believe to ourselves about how much we use, how much we need it, how much it is costing us and how much it is costing others. We only notice the extremes. As environmentalists we must face the truth that very nasty chemicals are absolutely everywhere, and are essential to the world as it is. Think about the technology that printed and delivered your Chain Reaction for example, there are no manifestos or laws which will rid us quickly of what we have already stock-piled, or pull the plug out of the great machine. First we need to fathom this problem.

Like many, I have been reflecting on our chemical dependence, and on our relation to science. Yet this anxiety, most often focused on cancer, is very widespread indeed. I have been struck in recent months by the misanthropic danger in science. Is it a function of our ever-improving skills at measuring and analysing, the increasing instance of always partial knowledge of their effects. Panic is perhaps inevitable when we are dealing with original organic chemistry. Every hazardous substances are so ubiquitous, albeit often in miniscule quantities. Like PCB's and DDT, or dioxin. PCB's and dioxin is the poison of a billion of PCBs, of DDT, of dioxin.

We suspect, what all those chemicals are going to do to us. They are violent chemicals industries. In reality, a six-atom carbon ring to be broken and rebuilt into whatever new molecule a market can be found for? The implication of such thoughts is that science is a very particular tool which is only capable of giving particular answers. It is a tool for increasing our control of the world, and that is its fundamental premise. In doing science we identify ourselves as outside biological cycles, not part of the chain, more important than other forms of life.

The Poisoned Womb might itself have been a parable of the problems of dealing in these terms of science. If there are 'possibilities for a different kind of science' are basically unexamined by the scientists dealing with the findings cautiously and ambivalently. Toxicology testing provides a fascinating difficulty in dealing with any problem in its whole­ness — the enormous complexity of biology and chemistry. Synthesis in science involves one Kekule, the German chemist who first worked out that benzene's structure was shaped like a ring after a particular dream:

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

The Poisoned Womb, a book on a topical subject and well worth a read.

Justin Moore is a FOE activist.

The Poisoned Womb
by John Elkington
Pelican Books, Melbourne
1986, 255pp, $11.95

Reviewed by Chris Sanderson.

If you want the truth — I know I do — you must look into the technology of these matters. Even into the hearts of companies, in which we believe to ourselves about how much we use, how much we need it, how much it is costing us and how much it is costing others. We only notice the extremes. As environmentalists we must face the truth that very nasty chemicals are absolutely everywhere, and are essential to the world as it is. Think about the technology that printed and delivered your Chain Reaction for example, there are no manifestos or laws which will rid us quickly of what we have already stock-piled, or pull the plug out of the great machine. First we need to fathom this problem.

Like many, I have been reflecting on our chemical dependence, and on our relation to science. Yet this anxiety, most often focused on cancer, is very widespread indeed. I have been struck in recent months by the misanthropic danger in science. Is it a function of our ever-improving skills at measuring and analysing, the increasing instance of always partial knowledge of their effects. Panic is perhaps inevitable when we are dealing with original organic chemistry. Every hazardous substances are so ubiquitous, albeit often in miniscule quantities. Like PCB's and DDT, or dioxin. PCB's and dioxin is the poison of a billion of PCBs, of DDT, of dioxin.

We suspect, what all those chemicals are going to do to us. They are violent chemicals industries. In reality, a six-atom carbon ring to be broken and rebuilt into whatever new molecule a market can be found for? The implication of such thoughts is that science is a very particular tool which is only capable of giving particular answers. It is a tool for increasing our control of the world, and that is its fundamental premise. In doing science we identify ourselves as outside biological cycles, not part of the chain, more important than other forms of life.

The Poisoned Womb might itself have been a parable of the problems of dealing in these terms of science. If there are 'possibilities for a different kind of science' are basically unexamined by the scientists dealing with the findings cautiously and ambivalently. Toxicology testing provides a fascinating difficulty in dealing with any problem in its whole­ness — the enormous complexity of biology and chemistry. Synthesis in science involves one Kekule, the German chemist who first worked out that benzene's structure was shaped like a ring after a particular dream:

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

Kekule Great Serpent holding its own tail in its mouth, the dreaming Serpent which revolves endlessly. But the meanness, the cynicism with which this dream is to be used. The Serpent that announces "The World is a closed ring, serial, vegetative, eternally-returning," to be delivered into a System whose only aim is to violate the Cycle. Taking and not giving back, demanding that 'productivity' and 'survival' keep on increasing with time, the System removing from the rest of the World their vast quantities of energy to keep its own desperate fraction showing a profit and not only of humanity — most of the World, chemical industries. In this state the Serpent's machine, mineral, is laid waste in the process.

The Poisoned Womb, a book on a topical subject and well worth a read.

Justin Moore is a FOE activist.
Reviewed by Anna-Marie Dell'oso

By a quirk of environmental fate, I met David Bellamy, the naturalist, as I was being escorted from a police holding cell in Queenstown, Tasmania, in the summer of 1982-83.

It may as well have been winter. The south-west was squalling with rain and the white winds that buffeted my tent at nights were blowing from the Antarctic. I drove into Queenstown, cold and hungry. Rain spilt my eyes as I kept out of the car to pick up a quick hot chocolate and a toasted sandwich before driving on to the little fishing village of Strahan, headquarters of the Tasmanian Wilderness Society that had been in the national headlines nearly every day that summer.

I had spent the last week working as a legal aide to the protesters of the Franklin River campaign. The work consisted of journeys back and forth to Strahan, parked my car in the rain and locked it. I rammed a beanie hat over my city punk haircut and pulled on a pair of mittens. I burst out of a building and began running backwards down the street. Tiny microphones, leads and lights waved in the authors, this power source is not just a modest target whereby the state wind power of sun, wind, wave and tide. The desire to make a fast back — a philosophy that has underpinned Western societies for so long that we have come to believe it is genetic to human nature — has not been made useful to both the lawyers and the arrested greenies anxious to get back their backpacks stored.

David Bellamy's latest adventure is to have teamed with Brendon Quayle, an anthropologist and journalist, to write hard-hitting television series on the global future. The original scripts were written for Tyne Tees TV in England.

Turning the Tide, the book of the series, is now available in Australia. It is subtitled 'Exploring options for life on earth', the book is an absorbing and passionate appraisal of where our planet is heading. Although it cannot be denied — particularly post-Chernobyl — that a good deal of the globe seems to be out of control and careering towards disaster, Bellamy and Quayle do not doom and gloom. In the middle of even the most terrifying chapters they present a blueprint for hope.

Turned by David Bellamy and Brendon Quayle into a television series and it is not surprising that the book reflects a tight dramatic structure that is highly imaginative, it makes the reader itch to see it on television. It is as sprightly and entertaining a look at the English countryside and flying around the world to illustrate ecological points as it is visually. They make a good read but an even better night's viewing, a pleasure to read about our world while being deeply worrying.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.

The book's great advantage over film documentaries is that it is a tremendous reference tool, being an environmental encyclopedia, a history book, a how-to book, an explanatory and entertaining guide not only to the natural world but also to the human community.
Backstage is the occasional page we put into each issue of Chain Reaction to tell readers what has been happening to the magazine, the Collective and other matters of interest, to us at least.

We sometimes explain stylistic changes to the magazine, although we believe that the design developed over the years does not require much amendment. In this issue there have been two obvious changes - Earth News and Letters are "ragged right", or as some would put it, "unjustified", and Backstage looks as though it has been typed rather than set. We decided to make the small column widths ragged because this eliminates the odd gaps which occur when the columns are justified, and Backstage is being typed so we can leave it until the last minute.

The other major change is that we have included a cartoon, the first of a series, and we hope you like it.

This edition has been put together in what seems like more than the usual chaos, so the collective will be meeting to specifically streamline our production process. We can become more efficient, but we could also use extra help in all stages of the process of production. This is easier for Melbourne people to do, but visitors are welcome, even if only to give us some direct feedback and suggestions for future editions. And you might be able to take away a book to review.

And while we’re on feedback, thank you for the comments we’ve been receiving, both written and verbally, about recent editions of the magazine. It has been very encouraging, and we’ve started to get the feeling that we must be doing something right. We would still appreciate more, and criticisms are also useful (usually).

There are a number of topics we want to cover in future editions, including: land degradation and soil erosion; children; the economy and the environment; as well as continuing coverage of the environmental issues that won’t be dealt with anywhere else.

We may also attempt to address issues relating to the use of new technology, because as a magazine we are finding that we are using things like computers, fax machines, laser printers and so on, and even if we continue to do so, we would like do it in the knowledge of the benefits and problems associated.

Meanwhile, keep sending material, preferably on computer disk, but paper is acceptable. Thank you to everyone who has worked towards making this possible - the fiftieth edition of Chain Reaction.
MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS
CALENDARS
DIARIES
HEALTH
COOKING
HERBS
CHILDREN
ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY
LESBIAN
WOMEN
GAYMEN
DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
PEACE EDUCATION
NUCLEAR CYCLE

BOOKSHOP
POLLUTION
RECYCLING
ENVIRONMENT
STICKERS
NEWTITLES
POSTERS

366 SMITH ST
COLLINGWOOD
VICTORIA, 3066