

It's the Testing, Stupid!

Well, they've done it again. **"Resume nuclear testing!"** is the recommendation to President Clinton from the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense and the directors of the three nuclear weapons labs. **Resume nuclear testing as soon as possible and continue testing beyond 1996.** In one of the most outrageous developments in the history of the CTB campaign, the Clinton administration's interagency task force last week proposed that:

- **Through September 1996, conduct the maximum number of tests allowed by the Nuclear Test Moratorium Law (12 U.S. & 3 British tests).**
- **After September 1996, a one-kiloton threshold test ban would take the place of a comprehensive test ban.**

Senators Exon (D-Neb.), Mitchell (D-Maine) and Hatfield (R-Ore); and Representative Kopetski (D-Ore), sponsors of last year's Nuclear Test Moratorium legislation, fired off letters to the President urging him to reject this proposal. In an interview with *The Washington Post*, Senator Exon called the idea "absolutely ludicrous" and was "not only disappointed but appalled" that the administration is considering it.

Frank von Hippel, a professor at Princeton University and a noted nuclear expert, said the proposal "doesn't make any sense at all. It is against the law." The National Resources Defense Council issued two memoranda detailing the illegality of (1) continuing to test weapons past September 1996 when the law clearly calls for "the achievement of a total ban on testing not to the preparation of a plan for achieving one," and (2) proceeding with nuclear test explosions without a plan to upgrade the war-head stockpile.

Information about the proposal was leaked to the press by citizen groups in D.C. working on the issue. Response around the country was immediate and fierce, with editorials condemning the plan appearing in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and the *Atlanta Constitution*. This information unleashed citizen anger and outrage across the country and flooded the White House with calls and faxes. Chief White House lobbyist Howard Paster described the reaction to the testing proposals as a "firestorm. We had no idea it was coming."

NDE campaign consultant Claire Greensfelder discovered in her follow-up calls to groups participating in Countdown '93 that people are angry and want to know what they can do. Groups and individuals across the country who believed the Cold War was over now see that in some places - namely the heart of the nuclear weapons industry - it is still being waged. Many people had turned their attention away from the issues of disarmament and nuclear testing to focus on such pressing concerns as the economy and racism. But we can't afford to avert our gaze at all. **We are truly in the eleventh hour of the campaign to end nuclear testing in all environments for all time.**

The nuclear weapons labs are fighting for their lives and their budgets. But as Senator Sasser (D-Tenn) chair of the Senate Budget Committee says, "We can't keep paying people for building nuclear weapons for God's sake."

For the sake of God, for the sake of all desert dwellers - lizards, cacti, flowers, wild mustangs - and ourselves - for the sake of our peace of mind and heart, for the sake of all who will come after us, we can't keep paying. The cost is too great.

We must stop. Now is the time.

LET CLINTON KNOW WHAT YOU WANT:

NO MORE TESTING!!!

Write/Fax/Call:

● To President Bill Clinton

Urge President Clinton to reject the task force report. Ask him to call for five-power nuclear testing talks immediately and to maintain the existing moratorium until a CTBT has been signed. Thank him for signing the treaties on global warming and biodiversity and point out that the next treaty we need is a CTB in place by March 1995 when the Non-Proliferation Treaty is up for renewal.

President Bill Clinton

The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

White House Desk: (202) 456-1111

Fax: (202) 456-2461

e-mail: clintonpz@aol.com

● To Senators and Representatives

Ask them to write to President Clinton urging him not to submit to Congress any report that calls for more testing. If the report is submitted calling for more testing, urge them to reject it. Ask them to introduce legislation that will maintain the moratorium while testing talks and negotiations take place. Find out about the hearings on the report and on the budget and send in comments.

Capitol switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Become a Countdown '93 Organizer in your area:

Organize parallel events with planned actions around the country. Use the NDE schedule as a skeleton for planning. Contact local media. Write letters to the editor. Start or activate a network in your community, a phone tree that could get the word out quickly when necessary.

Form a nuclear salon:

That's right! No - not an atomic beauty shop, but a study group of interested friends to talk about the issue, educate each other, break bread, have fun, plan actions and initiatives together.

Convert your Church:

Find out what stand your church or denomination has taken on nuclear testing and disarmament issues. Call your bishops or heads of your denomination urging them to take a public stand and make public statements condemning the immorality of nuclear weapons and the resources they consume.

Pray:

Pray the NDE prayer to end nuclear testing daily. Use the card in your churches, meetings, gatherings. (Contact NDE if you need copies). Hold public prayer vigils and call for an end to nuclear testing and the commitment of the released resources to the good of society.

Join NDE in a Once-a-Month Action to End Nuclear Testing!

May:

Write the task force and the President; tell them what you think of the draft report. NDE will work with a coordinated grass roots response to Clinton's Report to Congress.

June:

Attend Lawrence Livermore Labs National March and Non-violent Action June 4-7 (Call **Livermore Conversion Project for more information (415) 567-4337**). Attend or organize events on June 10, the 30th anniversary of President Kennedy's speech at American University calling for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

July:

Observe the National Day of Prayer and Fasting in remembrance of the birth of the Atomic Age; the world's first atomic explosion - Trinity Blast - in White Sands, New Mexico, on July 16, 1945.

August:

Attend August Desert Witness IX: The Witness Project: Poets: Their Visions, Their Voices, 48th anniversary of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

September:

Be aware that September 24 is most probable date for a test if there is a resumption of nuclear testing in Nevada. If testing is to be resumed, plan for a gathering on September 21 to oppose testing.

October:

Attend Healing Global Wounds in the United Nations Year of Indigenous People, sponsored by the Western Shoshone Nation.

NDE People in the News

NDE is happy to announce that **Jonathan Parfrey** began work as our new **Development Director on March 1, 1993**. Jonathan is a creative advocate for social justice and peace, and brings considerable writing and speaking skills to his new position. He may be known to many of you through his work with the Catholic Worker Community -- most recently as the co-director of the Orange County Catholic Worker in Santa Ana, California, which he founded with his wife, Rio, in 1987. Prior to that he was with the Los Angeles Catholic Worker, where he edited the "Catholic Agitator," and founded Aerospace Engineers/Workers for Social Responsibility.

In his first weeks with NDE, Jonathan has revealed himself as a person who is deeply committed to a vision of a peaceful and just world, which uses its resources for the development and support of human beings instead of for their destruction. We are happy that he has decided to devote his many gifts to ending nuclear weapons testing, and are delighted to have him as a colleague. He has already transformed our data base, and is quickly becoming familiar with NDE's supporters. Those of you who attended events during the Lenten Desert Experience may have met him already; the rest of you may look forward to meeting him soon.

Jonathan can be reached in Petaluma, California, where he lives with his wife and four children: P.O. Box 154, Petaluma, CA 94953-0154, phone: (707) 765-2996.

Anne Symens-Bucher vacated her position of Development Director upon the birth of her son John on Friday, January 29, 1993. Taking only a moment's break, Anne then returned to the board of directors resuming her role as Chairperson. Anne is a founder of NDE and was chairperson for ten years until she joined the staff as Development Director.

Leslie Klusmire resigned as chair and board member. She will continue her role as a co-editor of Desert Voices and hopes to begin working in Colorado on the Trident Train passing through her home town of Glenwood Springs and with Pace e Bene, a Franciscan organization studying the role of violence and non-violence in our culture.

Claire Greensfelder joined NDE's efforts as a campaign consultant on nuclear testing on April 12, 1993, and will be working specifically on the grassroots Countdown '93 campaign with NDE Director Pamela Meidell. From June 1991 until early this year, Claire served as National Director of Greenpeace USA's Nuclear Free Future Campaign. She has been organizing, writing and teaching for social change for 23 years. In her home city of Berkeley, California, she hosts a monthly public affairs radio program on disarmament and ecology entitled "Living in the Nuclear Age," which is broadcast on KPFA-Pacific Radio.

Pamela Meidell, who has been Acting Director of NDE since September of 1992, was appointed Director of Administration and Programs at NDE's February Board meeting.

We welcomed **Ian Zaparte**, staff to the **Western Shoshone National Council** and resident of Duckwater, Nevada, to NDE's Board of Directors in February 1993. As NDE deepens its support of and work with the Western Shoshone Nation, we look forward to a fruitful relationship with Ian and the Council.

Hearken unto Uncle Sam!

or Lenten Desert Experience through a Dutchman's Eyes

We started Lent with a fast and vigil on Ash Wednesday at the Test Site gate. When the sun was up and most of the workers had passed us, we read Matthew 4, about Jesus' time in the desert. Our noon reading was "Piglet surrounded by Water" - A.A. Milne. It made me remember my Dad reading it to us when we were little and did not know about adult thermo-nukes.

When the sun was setting and most of the over 50 buses and hordes of cars had left the NTS, we closed with a reading from 1 Samuel 8 in which the people ask Samuel for a king and Samuel prayed to God. God said to Samuel:

Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but me, that I should not reign over them. Since I led them out of slavery, they have forsaken me by serving money, power, lust and a host of other gods, and so do they also unto thee. Therefore, hearken unto their voice: how be it yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the government that shall reign over them.

And Sam told the people that asked of him a coercive law and order: government will take your sons, and employ them for its own benefit, to pay its deficit, to make you stand in lines and fill out its forms, man its tanks, be its fighter bomber pilots, and some will be marched to ground zero straight after a nuclear explosion: and it will appoint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretaries of State and War and Commerce and Education and send them to each of its colonies, and to reap the heavily sprayed grapes, coffee, and cotton, and to make its NAVSTAR satellites, and brainwash your kids into the rat race.

It will exploit your daughters to be cleaners, confectioneries, cooks, secretaries, bakers and nurses for the wounded soldiers. And it will munch up your vineyards, orchards and forests - even old growth, and turn them into a monstergod: green \$ bills capturing the souls of the people. And ye shall cry out in that day because of the government you have elected; and God will not hear you in that day.

So now we are born in this world full of freely elected principalities and powers. However, in the silence of the wind, I strongly felt God still does hear us in that, in this day.

Let us join our hands together, and work for a test ban so the burros and flowers can live in peace, daddies can keep on reading Winnie the Pooh to the little ones, and we take time to reconsider Sam's words and rid ourselves of the king by obeying the Prince of Peace.

- Frits ter Kuile, NDE Las Vegas Coordinator

Note: During the Lenten Desert Experience this year, 330 people attended events and 166 were arrested.

See and Believe

Witnessing the Test Site

Bet you didn't know the Department of Energy (DOE) hosts hundreds of free tours each year of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. Over the years, these tours have proved to be remarkable experiences.

Fr. Louis Vitale's tour in 1978 sparked the idea of a Franciscan vigil on the road to Mercury, which in turn led to the formation of the Nevada Desert Experience.

Last year, Senator Exon of Nebraska, after a tour, fully dedicated himself to the legislation securing a nuclear testing moratorium.

Nevada Desert Experience is instituting a new project called The Witness Project specifically to invite policy-makers as well as those who influence public opinion to come on DOE tours of the Test Site. We want you, our dedicated friends and supporters, to also come on these special tours.

To witness the Test Site, the most bombed land on the planet, is to be forever changed. To see the twisted steel of buildings and bridges at Frenchman Flat - to see the massive craters made from hundreds of underground tests - to see this surprisingly beautiful land of pine mountains and Southwestern rock formations made everlastingly toxic is to realize with firsthand clarity the absurd and tortuous cost of the arms race.

We invite your participation! Please call our Las Vegas office for information on tours and more: (702) 646-4814.

Notes From a Dutchman's Tour

You find yourself on Frenchman Flat amidst half-destroyed structures where nuclear bombs were exploded in the fifties, then you drive around countless barrels of nuclear waste from Rocky Flats and other DOE sites, down into a dump pit, and out again to Yucca Flats, where you leave the bus and walk to the edges of Sedan Crater, a giant hole in Mother Earth. Though the landscape is scarred from the hundreds of nuclear blasts, and there is debris here and there and everywhere; still the grass, flowers and little bushes are growing and the burros gallop in the wind. I got the fear that if the generals see this, they might think that nuclear war is not such a bad thing; after all, if horses seem to survive, why not we?

The Passion of Christ - 1993

Sermon, Nevada Test Site, Mercury Gate
Episcopal/Lutheran Weekend, Lenten Desert Experience
Sunday, March 21, 1993
The Reverend Shari Young

This sermon was created from comments made by participants during the weekend, ideas presented by the Rev. Jon Nelson - based on William Stringfellow and Walter Wink - comments by Rev. Young and paraphrased parts of the Passion story.

The prisoner was beaten before he was ever charged. The color of his skin, the shape of his features, his nationality, his speech rendered him guilty before he was even tried.

He was beaten and tormented by those who had the power of the state; who wore the uniform, who had the weapons, and the back-up. They laughed at him and jeered at this pain and mocked him.

"i thank you God for most this amazing day." - e. e. cummings

I was little, about 4 or 5 years old, and I had to hold my father's hand like this (holds hand up and raises elbow) because I was small. It was during World War II and he was a soldier stationed at Fort Ord waiting to get shipped out. We went to this prizefight, and I was holding my father's hand, and all I remember is the blood and sweat flying everywhere, all over the walls, and it got all over me and everyone around us was yelling "Kill! Kill!"

Hello Francis? You have got to get down here! Gubbio is going crazy over this wolf. He's big and he's black and everyone is terrified. We've passed laws and we've built jails and he's still terrorizing everyone. You have got to come down to Gubbio! (St. Francis)

Why is our response to bad things always violence?

Are we really willing to trust non-violence?

Heaven can be defined as the transcendent possibilities latent in every moment.

The woman was violated before she was even charged. The color of her skin, the shape of her features, her religion, her nationality, rendered her available for degradation. She was raped by those who had the power of the state, who wore the uniform, who had the weapons and the back-up. They laughed at her and jeered at her pain and mocked her.

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It all started with four women walking the route of the white train from Bangor, Washington to King's Bay, Georgia, by way of Amarillo, Texas. They had all their possessions in a hand-cart, like in the Middle Ages, and they gathered people as they went and when they got back, they had a long list of names and addresses across the country. (a story from Ground Zero)

The cross is symbolic not only of the individual's ultimate trust in God despite horrific circumstances, pain and even death: The cross is also symbolic of what can happen when one resists the power of the state. The innocent offering of life on behalf of the community, for the vision of the New Jerusalem.

Joseph Campbell talked about following your bliss. Couldn't taking up your cross be seen as the same thing?

Sometimes the only door that is open can be the cross.

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The child was violated long before he grew up. The color of his skin, the shape of his features, his childish clumsiness rendered him vulnerable to abuse.

One day bombs were dropped on his home by those who had the power of the state; who had the weapons and the back-up. They laughed at him and jeered his pain, and they forgot him.

Are we really willing to trust non-violence?

Don't do violence until you can't not do it.

Make sure dance is there in the midst of it.

Does anybody know the way to the future?

They said to one another "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?" And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem and they found the eleven gathered together and those who were with them, and said "The Lord has risen indeed and has appeared to Simon." Then they told what happened on the road and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Gospel of Luke)

Are we really willing to trust non-violence?

Heaven can be defined as the transcendent possibilities available in every moment.

The Buses Roll

By Madonna Newburg

The buses start to roll from
The gambling town and the gamble is
Live or die,
Some a slow death since the 1940's,
Who can doubt the government?
Sheep, soldiers, school kids ask
Would they lie to us? The buses roll.

Cold and nervous
Are we ready for this?
Someone has to be ready. The buses roll.
Sun coming up to warm us,
Not a mushroom cloud,
That would be forever.
We are ready, lots of stares.
Boredom, hate, content with their paychecks.
Maybe nervous as we. The buses roll.

Will we stand our ground?
Won't turn back, can't turn back
Too many sisters by our side, scared too.
The buses roll.
Get the signs up higher,
Say those prayers, said, said.
Prayers work but not alone. The buses roll.
Cars and trucks now, one stops,
Ready for violence, noon is violent.
Peacekeepers watch the faces
Trained to set the mind and soul to
Not react, act, react. The buses roll.

Donuts come out of the open window
Not cussing, we are amazed
Hope springs eternal.
Warm sun, mittens off, heavy sign,
Winds blow, nerves come and go.
Smiles up and down the lines, jokes,
Sermons, tears, plans for the future.
The buses roll.
No future here, tears,
Great desert, Indian land, Shoshones gone.
Curses come now. get a job, commies, go to
Russia,
Take a bath, get a job, go back to L.A.
The buses roll.

Other women walked here in the '50s
Brave souls, no support, lots of guts
They knew what they were doing and undo-
ing. The buses roll.
Will this be different?
Will they listen to our protests?
Sage smells sweet from the fire
Small desert flowers asking why.
The buses roll.
Can't anyone understand we weren't meant
to be
Blown up or out of the earth, Mother Earth.
Take a break from living, this is the place to
be.
Your soul is different once you stand here.
The buses roll.

The Japanese women knew the falling death
The Downwinder women know it too.
Forgive us so we don't forget. The buses
roll.
Noon leaves, noon leaves the same.
One changes inside, that's what's important.
That's all one can hope for

The following poems are excerpts from a series in four parts entitled "The Gathering of Peace" written by Susan Elizabeth Howe for the Mormon Peace Gathering at the Nevada Test Site on March 26 - 28, 1993.

Cross

The earth has been crossed so thoroughly
by the human power to kill,
a net of intersections
of predator and prey,
weapons ever more random,
more deadly.
The skin of the earth
bears great wounds,
infections oozing pus,
open sores bothered,
never given time to heal.
Another nuclear weapon sets off
its flash of poison,
and the earth shudders and cries,
as she did when Christ died,
"I am pained; I am weary
because of this wickedness.
When shall I be cleansed?
When shall I rest?"
This is the one cross, shriveling
and charred.

The other flowers,
as the rose, the tree blossoming,
bearing fruit to serve life:
the earth to be renewed,
a green-blue paradise.
Just as heavy, the flowering cross
is the choice we here affirm:
that the seasons will continue,
that growing things will thrive.
That the desert floor,
after abundant winter rain,
will be carpeted with flowers.
That we will honor all God's
children as we climb
the great stone mountains.
That the love of Christ
will teach us how to take apart
this violence threatening
the earth. That the earth,
our yearning mother, will be
healed. That we will eat,
again, again, the bread
of Christ, of life.

Communion

In the ordinary ward chapel,
or a screened cabin by a lake,
on desert logs pulled
into a rough circle,
we saints gather wherever we are
to drink the water, eat the bread
of life. After prayer
the tokens come on silver
trays. Each of us is served,
serves the next neighbor.
Think of the taste of that crust,
that morsel. Think of wheat
in a fresh field waving
in the rain. Think of your own
hunger. Think of the flesh
torn from the bread,
that we might not destroy
each other. Of Christ come
to teach us
how we might have life.

NDE Prayer

God of faithfulness and promise,
Lover of all creation,
Hear our prayer for an end to
nuclear weapons testing.
You named us prophets to preserve
and nurture your creation:
all people, all life,
indeed, the earth itself.
Enlighten our efforts to end
nuclear weapons testing;
Energize our wills for the
restoration of creation.
Inspire and guide all who pray
and work nonviolently,
So that your promised peace will
fill our world with lives
rich in your love.

Amen.

Desert Voices Spring 1993 NDE's Quarterly Newsletter

Your letters, articles, announcements of
coming events and/or poetry are
welcome.

Send them to: Desert Voices, Box 4487,
Las Vegas, NV 89127-0487

Phone (702)646-4814.

Newsletter Staff: Pamela Meidell,
Jonathan Parfrey, Frits ter Kuile, Jon and
Leslie Klusmire.

Daniel Berrigan at Test Site

August Desert Witness IX

Daniel Berrigan, poet and father of non-violent resistance to nuclear war, will join August Desert Witness IX to read poetry and bear witness against the destruction of the Nevada Desert. In addition to Fr. Berrigan, many poets from across the United States will arrive in Las Vegas to visit the Test Site and announce their vision. You are cordially invited to join this prestigious group for a weekend of presentations, prayer and culture.

August 5 also marks the 30th anniversary of the Limited Test Ban Treaty. What better place than Las Vegas to commemorate that historic event as well as look with enthusiasm toward the upcoming negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty?

Stay tuned for announcements of guest writers and celebrities joining us for this "hot" August assembly.

Thursday night, August 5 - Sunday noon, August 8.
Call the Las Vegas office (702) 646-4814 for more info.

Daniel Ellsberg Speaks:

"Manhattan Project II:
The Bomb. We Built It. We Can Take It
Apart."

Saturday, June 12, 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. First Friends Church, 13205 Philadelphia St., Whittier, CA. \$5 Admission. Sponsored by the Whittier Area Peace and Justice Coalition and others. Call Gerald Haynes at (310) 699-1452 for more information.

Sunday, June 13. 10:15 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. All Saints Episcopal Church, 132 N. Euclid Ave. Pasadena, CA. Free Admission. Sponsored by Critical Mass of All Saints Church and West San Gabriel Valley Area SANE/FREEZE. Call John Grula at (818) 797-2820 for more information.


*Nonviolence and Transformation:
Pace e Bene's Summer 1993 Retreats*

*Franciscan Nonviolence:
The Vision and Practice of
Nonviolent Social Change
June 12-18*

*Franciscan Retreat Center
San Juan Bautista, CA
Co-sponsored by the Social Concerns
Committee, Santa Barbara Province (OFM)*

*Nonviolent Change:
The Spiritual Journey of Social Transformation
July 10-17
Las Vegas, NV*

*For more information:
1420 W. Bartlett Ave., Las Vegas NV 89106
(702) 648-2281*

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The Testing Continues!
Join Daniel Berrigan at ADW IX

See unfolded page for details

↓ ADD!