

VOICE

THE B.C. VOW NEWSLETTER, published every 2 months by B.C. VOICE OF WOMEN
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ARISE YE PRISONERS OF EXTINCTION

by Marjorie Stewart

I sometimes meet people who claim to share VOW's concerns about environmental disruption but believe all efforts to change the situation hopeless. As the man (woman?) said: with friends like these, who needs enemies? However, we all get close to feeling that way sometimes, and for those of us tempted to retreat into alienation, I would like to recommend the address delivered by George Wald, Higgins professor of biology, Harvard, Nobel Laureate, delivered to the 1974 (20th) World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs at Tokyo and Hiroshima.

Wald is a realist who has plumbed the depths of bitter anticipation yet responds with the challenge which is the title of this article and his speech. He is "one of those scientists who does not see how to bring the human race much beyond the year 2000." Some of the dreadful realities he has faced (and we must face, too) include: arms escalation and overkill capacity of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R.; the "big hunger", no longer to be deflected by a green revolution dependent on huge amounts of cheap oil and coal; the population explosion apparently out of control. Wald does not evade the logical conclusions to be drawn: mechanisation of tasks leads to more food but fewer jobs. The result is the creation of what Robert McNamara, World Bank President, calls "marginal" (expendable?) men and the concentration of real power in the hands of conscienceless multinational corporations. "The 'free' world is run by such enterprises as General Motors, ITT, the Chase/Manhattan Bank, Exxon, Dutch Shell and British Petroleum, Mitsubishi and Mitsui." A distressingly similar pattern of monolithic bureaucracy exists in the U.S.S.R.

Wald rejects the plea that we don't know enough yet to deal with our problems. "We already know enough to begin to deal with all our major problems: nuclear war, overpopulation, pollution, hunger, the despoliation of the planet ...we cannot cope with any of them while maximising profits." The inescapable conclusion follows that first the people of the Third World must perish, preferably by quiet starvation. Next must come the poor of our own countries. We are witnessing the final soulless, self-centred actions of an ancient regime comparable with Louis XVI's France. Ironic that Henry Kissinger sees himself as a latter-day Metternich, that indefatigable "fixer" for anxious despots.

Pretty scary, huh? I quote Wald's conclusion and recommend that we all take it to heart.

"Arise, ye prisoners of extinction. People of the world, unite. You have nothing to lose but your terror, your exploitation and ceaseless deception, your alienation and dehumanisation, your helplessness and hopelessness. And a world to win.

"AND A WORLD TO WIN."

Let us indeed take Wald's words to heart.

In his penultimate paragraph he gives us a pretty clear sense of direction:

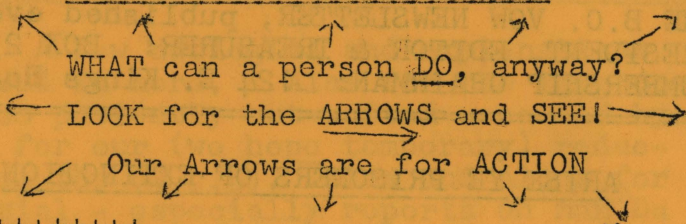
"It is too late for declarations, for popular appeals...all that matters now is political power.

"...Unless the people of this world can come together, to take control of their lives, to wrest political power from these of its present masters who are pushing it toward destruction, then we are lost - we, our children and their children."

"Arise Ye Prisoners of Extinction" has been printed extensively, by newspapers, U.S. Farm News, Another Mother for Peace, Promoting Enduring Peace (PEP), et al.

PEP's reprints are available upon request from our own Literature Department (SEE PAGE 6).

PLEASE HELP DISTRIBUTE IT



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International Women's Year

What better opportunity could we find for meaningful action? Here are some I.W.Y. PROJECTS which are being launched by various organizations.

♀ By British Columbia Voice of Women

The object of our own Project is to take materials around the province to show where there is so much waste of both human and material resources, and to point out what women can do to help rectify this. Robyn Smith, co-ordinator, feels that there is every likelihood that we will be given a grant, but that it will probably be less than hoped for, which means that only one person - or two part-time people - could accompany the show. Resource people ARE NEEDED TO HELP with the display, which should include films. It will be taken around to various shopping centres throughout the province. Hilda Kellington has offered to help Robyn with display materials. At the various centres it is hoped that local VOW members will participate.

♀ In Great Britain: One Letter A Week

Women for World Disarmament are giving support to a plan which was formulated in direct response to a lecture given by Professor Bernard Feld (Secretary-General of the Pugwash Conferences on Science & World Affairs, and one-time advisor to the American administration on nuclear matters) in London last October: "Attempts at Nuclear Arms Control: Is the Cure Worse Than The Disease?"

Shocked into action by Feld's opening statement that the chances are one in three of a nuclear weapon being used within the next decade and greater than fifty-fifty of a nuclear war occurring before this century is out, a group of women is organising the personal delivery of letters to Downing Street once a week throughout 1975.

Eileen Bernal writes, in Call to Women (London): "We undertake to deliver one letter each week to No. 10, Downing St. throughout 1975. It would require only 52 women to cover the whole year, each of them guaranteeing to deliver her letter on any day of her choice during her one allotted week. For those wishing to participate but personally unable to take part, it would be possible for their letters to be taken by those women able and willing to deliver in person. Very little organization would be necessary to put this scheme into action." (HOW ABOUT LETTERS TO MARGARET TRUDEAU??? - Ed.)

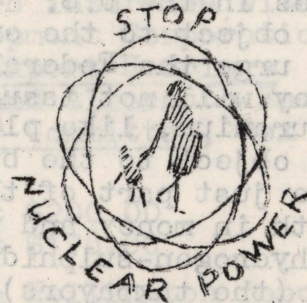
In S. California, support from Women Strike for Peace

♀ "Women everywhere should take a cue from our British sisters, who have been in the vanguard of the struggle for nuclear disarmament. Each week Prime Minister Harold Wilson will be reminded of 'the urgent need for a significant reduction in British arms expenditure during 1975, more especially in the field of our expensive and irrelevant nuclear weapons which only add to our insecurity and economic bankruptcy.' ...WSP salutes the British women and assures them that nuclear disarmament is the priority item on our agenda for International Women's Year." - from La Wisp, Feb. 1975.

In The Netherlands: The Year Against Nuclear Power

♀ The following letter was sent to us by Mary Hays Weik, of the Committee to End Radiological Hazards, New York, who says:

→ " L E T ' S H E L P ! "



Stroomgroep Stop Kalkar,
January 6th, 1975. Herengracht 109 Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Dear Friend: The Stroomgroep Stop Kalkar is an organisation with sub-groups throughout the Netherlands which is engaged in the protest against the building of the fast breeder reactor - the so called SNR-300 - in Kalkar, West Germany, just over the Dutch/German border.

The building of this prototype reactor is a joint project of the governments of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The main part of our activities during the last 1½ years was giving information about the Kalkar project and nuclear power in general, particularly because the official information is very much in favor of nuclear power.

It appeared from an official poll that about 50% of the Dutch people are against nuclear power and the protests against the SNR-300 are loud and clear. Nevertheless, the development of nuclear power continues on a large scale throughout the Common Market and therefore we have declared 1975 (Women's Year) Year Against Nuclear Power. We hope in this way to contribute to an increasing discussion about this subject and that under pressure of the public opinion we will come to a Moratorium ...in which all developments in nuclear energy will be stopped.

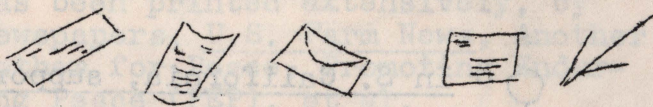
↓ We ask all organisations and individuals who are concerned about man and his environment to support this initiative and place all their activities within the framework of this Year Against Nuclear Power, all under the same sign - as visualized at the top of this letter. From this sign (from a Swedish design) we made buttons, posters and stickers and we ask everybody to do the same in their country. We are counting on your support. The protest shall be heard through the whole world!

YES, VIRGINIA, YOUR VOICE IS HEARD...

An official status report on the U.S. Civilian Reactor Power Program shows that, in the year 1974, 126 ordered or planned units were deferred for from 6 months to indefinitely. (note sent by Mary Hays Weik)










LILLE D'EASUM SAYS:

WE NEED HUNDREDS, THOUSANDS OF LETTERS to:



Hon Donald S. Macdonald, Min. of Energy, Mines & Resources;
with carbon copies to: Rt. Hon. Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Prime Minister,

STRONGLY OBJECTING to the decision, announced th the House Dec. 20th 1974 by Energy Minister Macdonald, to accelerate the Canadian nuclear fission industry and to export CANDU, nuclear material and technology to all comers.

-  We especially object to the export of any of these things to Iran, Argentina and S. Korea under any circumstance. (Give reasons).
-  We object to the building on Canadian soil of "a string of CANDU's across Canada, with generous amounts of U.S. money, to supply energy to utilities in the U.S." (Expand: they get the energy...)
-  We object to the enrichment of uranium on Canadian soil (in Quebec).
-  We urge the Federal Government to forestall this plan by announcing NOW that they will not issue permits for the export of uranium in any form. Enriched uranium, like plutonium, can be made into bombs.
-  We object to the building or purchase of more heavy-water plants. They are just part of the energy-to-produce-energy cycle. They are expensive both in money and use of electricity, and dangerous in that they leak deadly hydrogen-sulphide.
-  We (the taxpayers) without being either informed or consulted, have already spent billions of dollars on this unnecessary, hazardous and immoral technology. We object to sending good money after bad.
-  We must get out of the energy-to-produce-energy syndrome and put our money and efforts into CONSERVING energy and resources.
-  We must CHANGE our energy policy immediately to research and development of the various renewable and non-polluting sources of energy provided by nature.
-  We must DECENTRALIZE energy production, industry, population.

→ (N.B. Try to make your submission as individual as possible. These points are merely suggestions. Get all your friends, including men, to write, too.) ↗



See Hansard (Dec. 20, 1974) for particulars.

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NOTICE for KNITTERS!

Wondering what to do with knitted items? wool? money? now that Sheila Young has resigned from the CAVC Children's Committee? Kay Inglis suggests either of 2 alternatives:-

- (1) Carry on making items for Vietnam and they will be forwarded as in the past.
- (2) Send money either for Artificial Limb Fund or for special medications for the children.

Kay writes: "We are carrying on with the work that has been going on for some years now, but hope not to spend much money on wool or materials unless groups can raise their own."

PLEASE NOTE

our ORPHAN'S

NEW ADDRESS :-

Ven. Thich Man Da La,
A.B.V.O.,
Comite d'Aide aux Orphelins,
19 rue Chaptal,
94230 CACHAN, France.

Canadian Aid For Vietnam Civilians, P.O. Box 2543, Vancouver 3, B.C.

Highlights
From The
Minutes:

B.C. VOW
Executive
Meeting
Jan. 21st,
1975.
(There
was no
Feb.
meeting,
owing to
infl.)

- * Membership: 5 new members in November-December Effective Feb. 1, 1975, all donations over and above membership fees, including sustaining, be automatically put into B.C. VOW treasury unless otherwise requested.
- * Number of Pages of B.C. Voice to be reduced from 5 to 3 sheets (owing to present high cost of paper), at least until recycled paper is once more available.
- * Gross Misinformation on S.E. Asia on current CBC Nat'l News programs: B.C. VOW to write CBC protesting this.
- * Ecology:
Eve Smith to be refunded for various mailings including letter to B.C. MLA's, etc., re interview with Korbin on Chin To Vu and the B.C. Development Corporation.
Eve made presentation to Gas Export Hearings: her main points Waste, Conservation and Alternate Energy. \$25 to be donated to James Bay Committee, Box 65, Place d'Armes, Montreal P.Q.
- * Bank Balance: Savings account \$200.00
Current account \$178.00
- * Anti-Nuclear Committee: Hilda Kellington reported the Committee working on an ongoing long-term petition \$25.00 to be donated by B.C. VOW.
- * Tiger Cage presently in Victoria.
- * International Women's Year Project reported on by Robyn Smith: SEE PAGE 2 (Ed.)

TO READ →

THE PATH OF RETURN CONTINUES THE JOURNEY, by Thich Nhat Hanh. Foreword by Daniel Berrigan, translation and drawings by Vo-Dinh. Hoa Binh Press, Fellowship of Reconciliation, 1972. 27pp, \$1.25

A gracious one-act play suitable for performance - as soon as possible - in small theatres, especially by college groups.

SUPERSHIP, by Noel Mostert. Random House \$9.95

A new and revealing angle on supertankers. Watch for reviews.

CIA DIARY: INSIDE THE COMPANY, by Philip Agee. Penguin Books Canada, 639 pp, paperback \$2.95

"Agee's embittered testimonial to the organization he so loyally set out to serve." (Julian Reid review)

MAN KIND? OUR INCREDIBLE WAR ON WILDLIFE, by Cleveland Amory. Harper & Row, 372 pp, \$8.95

NATION magazine, Feb. 1st 1975; article by Robert Aldridge mentioning B.C. Voice of Women and recommending that the same group that put up such good opposition to Amchitka should take on Trident.

PICKERING POWER PLANT REPORT from National VOW: a Memo sent to members on Nov. 25th, 1974, containing a report on a tour by 4 VOW members of the Pickering plant. Important information. If you didn't receive one, write to VOW National Office, 175 Carlton St., Toronto, Ont., M5A 2K3.

B.C. VOW LITERATURE from Mrs. T.M. Cox, Bowser, B.C.

ARISE YE PRISONERS OF EXTINCTION - reprint by Promoting Enduring Peace, of George Wald's speech (see page 1, and top of page 2). 3 pp., 3¢ each. ←

THE UNCONTROLLED ATOM: A CRISIS OF COMPLACENCY - being the Joint Statement by the Canadian-American Pugwash Groups. It is the Oct. 1974 issue of the Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. A useful pamphlet for distribution. ←

A Letter From the Editor: Dear Friends: A few apologies and explanations must be squeezed in here. Alas for the long delay you have so patiently out-waited - caused by distance, lack of time, and 'flu. Alas for our (we hope temporary) reduction to 6 pages, caused by high costs (see top of p.5). Alas and alack for the omission of countless beautiful material - especially reports on Man Da La's meetings in B.C. and Edmonton - caused by lack of space. Hooray for the return of our new masthead, absent in the last issue due to a "technical hitch". And GRATITUDE FOR EVER to Mary and Taliaferro Cox, without whose endless diligence and patience your Voices would never reach you. Lastly, PLEASE USE NANAIMO ADDRESS (p.1), NO LONGER Edmonton: I'll be back in April! * - Deeno Birmingham.

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Voice of Women fees were due on Jan. 1st. Are you paid-up for 1975?

Fees: Regular.....	\$5.00	N.B.	You may pay fees to your Group
Sustaining.....	\$12.00		Membership Chairman, OR directly
Youth (under 25).....	\$1.00		to B.C. VOW Membership Chairman,
Senior (over 65).....	\$1.00		124 East Kings Road,
Family.....	\$7.50		North Vancouver, B.C., V7N 1H5

→ Cheques payable to "Voice of Women" ←

Group Membership Chairmen:

- BURNABY - Mrs. A.W. Hyde, 5507 Gilpin St., Burnaby 2, B.C.
- NORTH SHORE - Mrs. W.I. Craig, 3714 Dollarton Hwy, N.Van (Regular fee \$6.00)
- VANCOUVER - Mrs. A.P. Hewett, 3543 W. 26th Ave., Van. 8 (Regular fee \$6.00)
- VICTORIA - Mrs. Iva Jellicoe, #207 - 915 Cook St., Victoria

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