

Slouch By Jim Earle



EARLE 9-24-82
"How could your ride be leaving early to go to the Louisiana Tech game? Isn't it a home game?"

Even pro-nukes should question proposed nuclear power plant site

Until now, the activities of the anti-nuclear groups have seemed to be little hindrance for this nation's attempts to expand its energy resources. I have always been in favor of the development of nuclear power, and I still am.

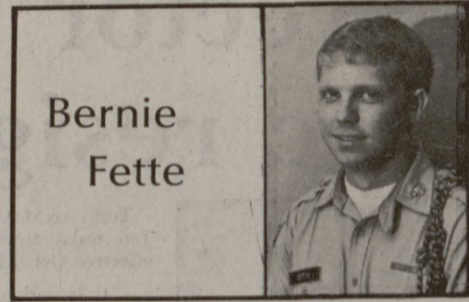
But the location of the United States' newest such plant should raise questions in the minds of even the most staunch nuclear power supporters.

The recent protests by anti-nuke forces in California are significantly different from such protests of the past and therefore, deserve more serious consideration.

Granted, most of those who gathered in attempts to block the operation of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant are veterans of the anti-nuke campaign, most notable among them, rock singer Jackson Browne and actor Robert Blake. But this time, considering the location of the Diablo plant, the anti-nukes have firm ground to stand upon.

The problem is, the ground in that section of California has a history of being not firm.

This particular power plant happens to be located dangerously near an offshore fault line, making it especially susceptible to earthquakes, as that area has been in the past.



Bernie Fette

Earthquakes which devastated southern California in the past provide enough reason to believe that the location of the Diablo plant may prove to be a serious mistake.

Not to say that nuclear power plants in general are an evil. On the contrary, any nation such as this one should do everything it can to utilize alternative sources of energy to insure the nation's future.

But at the same time, that nation should also do everything it can to insure the safety of its citizens for the future.

Herein lies the problem. It would seem safe to say that when planning the construction and operation of a nuclear power plant, careful preparation by scores of highly qualified personnel are

an integral part of that planning. But in the case of the Diablo plant, the amount of precaution can guard against the possibility of mother nature contributing to a serious nuclear accident — an accident which has the frightening potential of being the historic San Francisco earthquake seem minor in comparison.

Since the beginning of the protests on Friday, more than 1,300 protesters have been arrested and with their numbers significantly diminished, they had a chance to successfully block the operation of the plant.

Tuesday, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission granted the plant a go-ahead to begin low-level testing. Although it will take several days before testing actually begins, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company operator of the plant, says it intends to "start the process immediately."

Before long, the only thing residents of the area can do, outside of moving, is hope that there will never be another major earthquake in southern California.

It's true that natural disasters are a real and in numerous areas of the country, but the judgement of those persons who planned the site of a nuclear power plant in an earthquake-prone southern California surely must be questioned.

Reagan's honeymoon: Is the end in sight?

By HELEN THOMAS

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's honeymoon, longer than for most occupants in the White House, appears to be coming to an end.

As some of his policies hit home, there are signs that there is some slippage in his popularity. In many ways, judgment has been withheld because his administration has been on a prolonged shakedown cruise. But the critics are becoming more vocal.

Time is running out and on Oct. 1 his economic recovery program goes into effect. Then it will be Reagan's new prosperity or Reagan's recession, depending on which way the economy goes, and even the economists appear confused at this stage.

Up to now, his top aides have been blaming Jimmy Carter for inflation, high interest rates, and just about every other thing that ails the country.

But the ball is in Reagan's court now. Like all of his predecessors, he urges Americans not to expect "instant solutions" to problems that have been so many years in the making.

Ironically enough, the men of little faith have been the Wall street investors, his strongest supporters. Except for the organized labor sponsored solidarity march in Washington, there have been no organized protests against his massive cuts in social programs that have been ingrained in the system for decades.

But the impact of those cutbacks are just beginning to be felt by those who will suffer the loss of jobs, food stamps, school loans, and other benefits. The reaction is setting in and the White House is getting more feedback from the disenchanted.

It appears to surprise Reagan that big business is not completely sold on the idea that prosperity is just around the corner. He had strong words of optimism to the National Federation of Republican Women in Denver last week: "I am convinced today as I was when we

introduced the package that this economic plan is as good as money in the bank — and if I were a betting man, I would wager the rent money on it.

"Now, I've listened to those chicken littles who proclaim the sky is falling and those others who recklessly play on high interest rates for their own narrow political purposes. But this concern about a plan not even in effect yet is nothing more than false labor."

"We will not practice dilettante economics," he said. "We're committed to the economic plan and we're committed to achieving it by holding to a firm, steady course for the long run."

Reagan told the gathering that the high interest rates had made his job more difficult. But he and his top aides are totally behind the Federal Reserve Board in keeping them high.

Anyone who has been around Washington long enough knows that if the White House put the pressure on and decided that the rates were indeed too high, there would be ways of getting that message across to the Federal Reserve Board.

The president miscalculated on the cost overrun of his 1982 budget and has had to return to Congress to urge that it be trimmed by billions more. But this time around there is a definite stiffening and he may find it more difficult to get his new cutbacks.

Republican leaders, worried about the 1982 election, had urged him to back off on some of the deep cuts in social programs.

Reagan has set a difficult agenda for himself. He wants to increase the defense budget by 7 percent annually to impress the Russians with the nation's military might and resolve.

He wanted a tax cut and he got it. He also wants to balance the federal budget by 1984, a goal which will take some doing if "supply side" economics and the trickle down approach does not work.

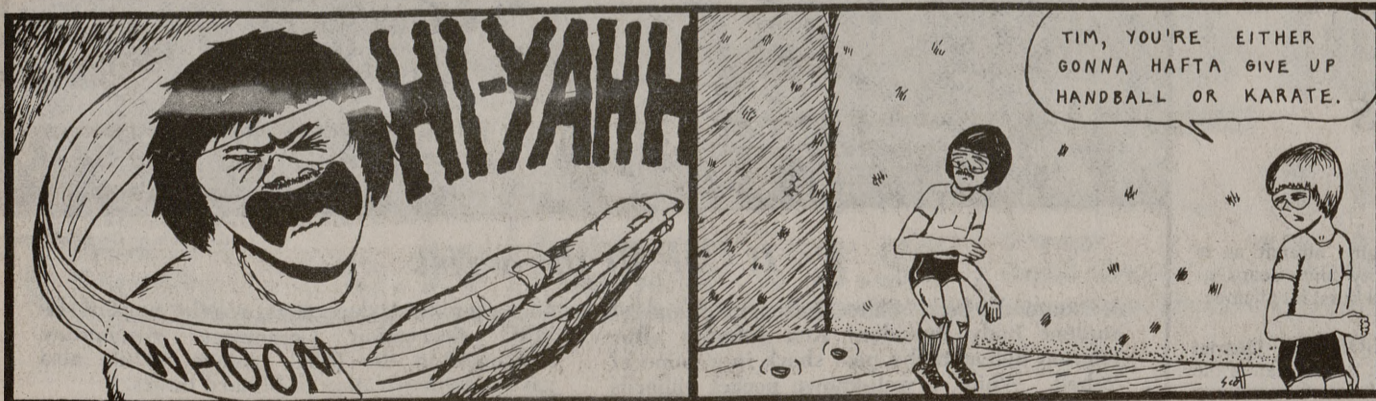
But Reagan's answer to the pessimists is, "I told the American people we were going to turn this economy around and we're going to do it."

the small society

by Brickman



Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON



It's your turn

Campus should be clean for visitors

Editor:

Listen up Ags! There is a home game Saturday which means there will be several thousand visitors on campus. There will be a lot of Old Ags, parents and families roaming about campus noting a lot of changes: the new buildings, the new parking lot, the trash. Trash? You know, the beer cans and bottles in the parking lots (visitors see these first), the coke bottles and cans, the candy wrappers, the shopping cart hanging in the tree by Keathley-Fowler-Hughes, not to mention the overabundance of trash produced by an overabundant number of students.

It is apparent that we cannot keep our campus clean just for ourselves and each other. We only make the job harder for the maintenance personnel. However, let's make a special effort to clean up the campus — just for a few hours on Saturday — especially for the alumni who still remember

that Aggie pride so many of us have forgotten.

Kimberly Bradshaw '82

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Letters to the Editor are welcome on all topics. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length.

but will make every effort to maintain author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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