

Scientists say Cerro Grande ash not a health hazard

7/20/01

The Associated Press

LOS ALAMOS — Sediment and water containing ash from last year's Cerro Grande fire pose no health threat, a team of scientists has concluded.

The Interagency Flood Risk Assessment Team said Thursday it has finished its study of areas around Los Alamos in the wake of the May 2000 wildfire that burned nearly 43,000 acres and left more than 400 families homeless as it roared over parts of the community of Los Alamos and the edge of Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The team found some ash-filled soil and water samples contained increased concen-

trations of radionuclides and nonradioactive carcinogens.

But they said the study shows no difference in chronic-health effects from direct exposure to ash-containing water or soil.

The scientists also said common activities, such as swimming, which result in direct skin contact with ash-containing water or sediments, "pose no substantial increased health risk over that posed by the same activities in non-ash-containing sediment or water."

The team looked at how chemicals, including radionuclides, transported by increased flooding from fire-denuded hills might affect downstream property owners, water users and the general public.

The assessment team said the study shows no difference in chronic-health effects from direct exposure to ash-containing water or soil.

Samples taken after the fire primarily showed higher levels of copper, manganese, iron and zinc in ash-containing sediments in nearby canyons, compared to samples taken before the fire.

They said such metals could be toxic at high doses, but that any potential problems could be avoided by not using ash-containing sediments in gardens in which food is grown.

Greg Mello, of the Santa Fe-based environmental

group, the Los Alamos Study Group, said his group has never thought the Cerro Grande fire caused much of an increased risk.

"I'm afraid by focusing on the very transient blip of the Cerro Grande fire the longer-term issues (of pollution from the lab) may recede into the background, and we may not get the kind of environmental cleanup that we should have," he said.

The team assessed potential danger from ash and ash-

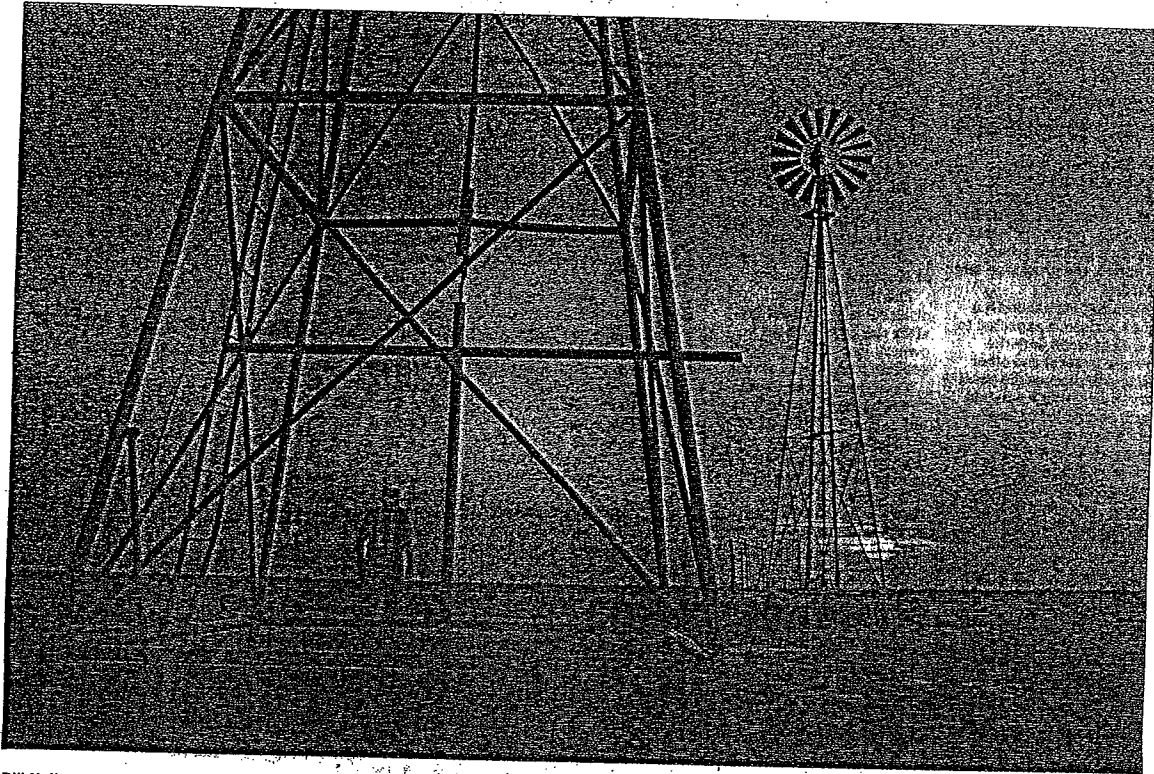
containing sediments collected in and around the Pajarito Plateau and Los Alamos lab before and after the fire and in and around the Viveash fire, which burned 28,800 acres northeast of Pecos last spring.

The team was made up of scientists from the state Environment and Health departments, the nuclear-weapons lab and several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy.

Two southeastern New Mexico families want to open a hazardous-waste dump called Triassic Park, but many activists worry it would be the first trickle in what could become an endless

Flood of junk

7/29/2001
SFWM



Bill Kolb walks toward the water pools near his home, which is about two miles from Triassic Park. He isn't opposed to the park. 'I think they're going to put in a safe facility,' he says. 'I just wish it was further away.'

Abel Uribe/The New Mexican

By KRISTEN DAVENPORT
The New Mexican

CAPROCK — 80-year-old Bill Kolb and his newly wedded wife, Ada Lee Kolb, also 80, are one of only a handful of families who live here under a constant sunny glare in the shrubby mesquite plains of southeastern New Mexico — about as middle-of-nowhere as you can get.

Slightly more than two miles from their front doorstep is the basin where two southeastern New Mexico oil and ranching families want to build a hazardous-waste dump — the first of its kind in the state. The site, called Triassic Park for the Triassic-era clay that lines the basin, would accept half a million cubic yards a year of 491 hazardous materials such as arsenic, lead, mercury or pesticide residue.

Ada Kolb said she "hasn't had a single allergy spell" since moving out last year

onto the arid Caprock, the name also given to a nearby cliff and the surrounding area. But she is worried the new dump will pollute the air.

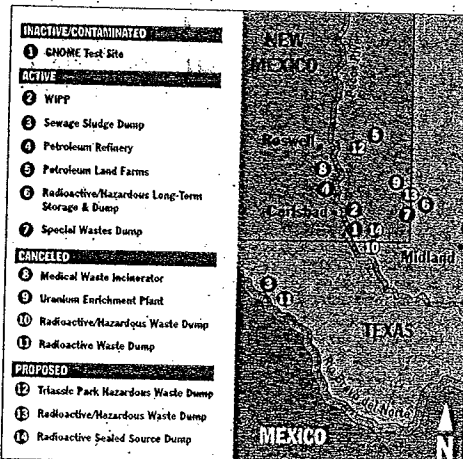
Her husband — who has been a TV tower watchman on the Caprock for almost 40 years — isn't as worried about the dump after talking to one of the men working to open the hazardous-waste facility.

"I want to be fair to everyone," Kolb said. "I think they're going to put in a safe facility. I just wish it was further away."

The Gandy and Marley families say they didn't expect quite as much opposition as they've encountered since they proposed opening New Mexico's first hazardous-waste dump out in the desert between Tatum and Roswell.

In response to the proposed dump, which has received preliminary approval from the state Environment Department, Victor Blair of Roswell has started an

Please see WASTE, Page A-8



Source: Deborah Reade/Water Information Network Robert Martinez/The New Mexican

7/29/2001

environmental group in southeastern New Mexico called Conservative Use of Resources and Environment (CURE), which Blair says will fight not only Triassic Park but any hazardous facility in southeastern New Mexico.

But the real question, say Santa Fe-area environmentalists, is whether this proposed dump is the first trickle in what could become an endless flood of contaminated junk — from radioactive waste to hazardous chemicals — that could be entering the state. Activists say the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, which began accepting low-level nuclear-weapons waste in 1999 after nearly two decades of planning, may be just the beginning.

Only two years after WIPP opened, they point out, the first proposal has arrived for another toxic-disposal site.

"There are several (radioactive and hazardous) dumps proposed for the state that aren't even on the drawing board yet," said Don Hancock of Southwest Research and Information Center, an Albuquerque anti-nuclear group. "It's because WIPP is here. It gives the government and corporate folks that idea, 'Well if you can put the world's first nuclear dump in New Mexico, you must be able to do virtually anything there.'"

Before WIPP, he said, "we didn't show up on anyone's radar."

That's changing. For example: Last summer, a private corporation asked the Department of Energy whether it could open a radioactive dump near WIPP for "sealed sources," radioactive machines used to calibrate instruments that measure cancer-causing radiation. The group has not offered an official proposal yet, but sources say it still plans to move forward with the new radioactive dump in southeastern New Mexico just a few miles from WIPP.

The Department of Energy is considering a radioactive-waste dump near Eunice, where the federal government could send low-level radioactive waste from the Savannah River nuclear plant in South Carolina.

Just over the border in Texas, at least two proposed radioactive-waste sites are in the works — one near Andrews and one farther south.

The attorney general's office is even worried that Yucca Mountain, a high-level radioactive dump, could end up in New Mexico if its Nevada location gets a thumbs-down from the federal government.

Currently, the Department of Energy is proposing that a dump for the nation's very hot waste — high-level radioactive waste — be sent to a disposal area called Yucca

Mountain at the Nevada Test Site. However, Nevada is almost unified in its opposition to the plan and it's not clear the site will open. The DOE secretary and possibly Congress are expected to make a decision on the proposal within the next year or two.

Many officials say the next choice would be New Mexico because WIPP already has some infrastructure in place to handle the nation's hottest nuclear waste.

In February, Attorney General Patricia Madrid sent a letter to Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., reminding him of a promise he made nearly 20 years ago to never allow high-level waste at WIPP.

Rick Jacobi, an independent consultant in Texas who works with companies that want to open radioactive dumps, says there is going to be a tremendous market for radioactive dumps by the end of the decade.

Besides WIPP, which accepts only low-level radioactive and mixed waste associated with the nation's nuclear-weapons program, there are only two or three disposal areas in the country for radioactive waste.

By 2008, Jacobi said, the last of those that accept radioactive waste from across the country will close, leaving the nation without any disposal area.

"Believe me, there's a (radioactive) waste-disposal crisis looming in this country," Jacobi said.

There are several companies that are pursuing radioactive-waste permits, he said. Two of the largest are in Texas: Waste Control Specialists has a radioactive storage site (but no permanent disposal permit) just over the Texas border from the proposed Triassic Park area, EnviroCare, another Texas company that runs a limited radioactive-waste dump in Utah, also is working to build radioactive dumps in the West.

"It's a very risky business," Jacobi said. "It can be extremely profitable, but you can invest tens of millions of dollars and not get any return."

And, he said, it's not clear what state in the end will appear most hospitable for those companies looking for sites for radioactive dumps.

"Right now, I don't think New

Mexico is more likely than any other place in the United States," he said.

Isolation: a deterrent or a lure?

Some experts say New Mexico is less likely to become the nation's radioactive or chemical dumping ground because it's so isolated — far from most of the major industrial and defense-related sources of waste (with the exception of Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories).

But others say the state's isolation — and its poverty — are precisely what big companies are looking for. Bill Weida, an economist with Colorado College and a board member of the Santa Fe nuclear watchdog Los Alamos Study Group, says New Mexico's isolation also can make it more attractive.

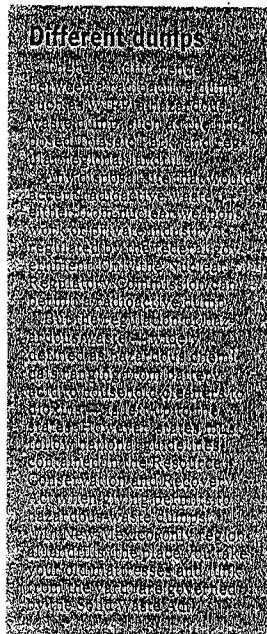
Regions with few people and little industry are often impoverished and are therefore more likely to believe a waste-disposal area could bring jobs and economic activity to the area. Triassic Park, for instance, promises 30 to 35 jobs.

In March, Weida wrote a paper titled "Pollution Shopping in Rural America." He found that communities often do themselves harm when they encourage industry such as factory farms and dumps because they inhibit future economic development. If the river is polluted, who wants to move their kids there?

But Steve Gilrein, a hazardous-waste specialist with the Environmental Protection Agency in Dallas, pointed out that New Mexico is not producing much hazardous waste, nor is it attracting many companies — at least so far — that want to build hazardous-waste dumps.

Except for radioactive waste, New Mexico is still one of the cleanest states for almost all other toxic-waste categories. The state generates less than 240,000 tons of hazardous waste annually, compared with Texas, which produces 50 million tons.

And New Mexico only buries about two tons of hazardous waste a year, while Texas buries nearly 6 million tons.



There are 1,900 hazardous waste dumps across the country. The leading states are Texas, Utah, Alabama and Wyoming.

"I can certainly understand what people are concerned about," Gilrein said. "But New Mexico just is not considered a big player (in hazardous waste)."

However, since WIPP, there is little doubt it is considered a big player in radioactive waste. The state is one of the worst for both generating and disposing of radioactive contamination, although several states score higher in each category.

Looking for acceptance

Community acceptance is the determining factor for companies deciding where to locate radioactive and hazardous-waste dumps, Gilrein said.

"That really is the single thing

that impacts the decision more than anything else — community support or lack thereof," he said.

But companies also consider other factors, such as the geology of the region. And that is where New Mexico starts looking pretty to companies searching a site for a waste dump.

"The groundwater is deep, there's not much precipitation, and it's a rural area with no one around so you're minimizing exposure," said Rich Mayer, an environmental engineer with the Environmental Protection Agency. "When you take that into consideration, it could be a really good spot for (radioactive) dumps."

For now, the Triassic Park proposal is the only application for a hazardous dump before the state Environment Department. No official applications have been filed on the state or federal level for radioactive dumps in New Mexico.

And Ada Kolb admits that if Gandy Marley, Inc., wants to open a hazardous dump in New Mexico, at least there aren't many people around at Caprock. It's a five-mile drive to her nearest neighbor.

"I guess if they have to disturb someone, it's the right place," Ada Kolb said. "I just hope it doesn't ruin my good air."

However, the Kolbs say, many ranchers in the area are angry about Triassic Park. "They're fearful," Bill Kolb said.

The few ranching families around Caprock used to have their own gas station and post office, but both closed more than a decade ago. The air smells faintly of oil and buzzards circle off the cliff for which Caprock was named. The closest gas station to the proposed Triassic Park facility is in Tatum, a community of about 1,000 people nearly 30 miles away. Its only grocery store burned down earlier this year.

Fewer than 15 families live within a 10-mile radius of the proposed Triassic Park. The site is so isolated, and water so scarce, that Gandy Marley, Inc., says water will have to be shipped in from miles away. The company plans to use up to 30,000 gallons of water a day to keep down dust (and keep contaminants from going airborne). Six to

eight trucks a day will rumble over those country roads just to bring water. According to the application, another five or six trucks a day will arrive with contaminated waste to be buried or put into evaporation ponds.

The area is already far from pristine. Surrounding the site where Gandy Marley, Inc., wants to put Triassic Park are miles of oilfields, with grasshopper-style drills pulling up crude oil from 5,000 feet below ground.

But despite the isolation, many residents in the area — and in Roswell, 40 miles to the west — say they will fight Triassic Park.

Dale Gandy, spokesman for the Gandy and Marley families, was not available for an interview. However, family representatives have said at public meetings that their intention is to run a clean site that will not pose a hazard to workers or families in the vicinity. Both families are from the area: The Marleys run ranches and ranch-related stores in Roswell and the surrounding area; the Gandy family has largely worked in the oil business.

The company has hired attorney Pete Domenici Jr., son of New Mexico's longtime Republican senator, to represent its interests surrounding Triassic Park.

Victor Blair, who bought property near the Triassic Park disposal area just before plans for the dump were announced, said he hopes the activists can convince the state government it's not the right place.

Blair, along with some Santa Fe activists, are worried that Gandy Marley, Inc., ultimately plans to sell its disposal area to Waste Control Specialists, which has openly been pursuing radioactive-dumping permits in Texas. Blair and others are worried they would try to turn Triassic Park into another radioactive dump, as well,

"The hazardous-waste industry is crowded and competitive," Blair said, whereas radioactive waste can be far more lucrative if a company can get a permit.

And opponents might have difficulty stopping a dump under New Mexico law when a company satisfies all technical requirements. Steve Pullen, who is working on the Triassic Park proposal for the state Environment Department, says "we have no choice in this office but to draft a permit and send it to the secretary (of environment, Pete Maggione) for approval."

"Political considerations are out of my hands," Pullen said.

Activists trying to stop Triassic Park say they hope to come up with enough technical objections to the hazardous-waste facility to make Maggione or Gov. Gary Johnson write it off.

But Pullen said Gandy Marley, Inc., has so far met all necessary regulations and standards. And, he said, he has a "clear conscience" drafting the permit because the regulations are extremely protective of public health.

For example, he said, all hazardous materials have to be treated as such as technology permits before going into the Triassic dump.

As for New Mexico's "wasteplex," as some call it, Pullen said he's doubtful the state has a problem.

"I think it's more of a western issue than a New Mexico issue," he said. "I don't feel like New Mexico is getting particularly picked on right now."

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NORTH ★★★★★

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Aging Nuclear Weapons Get New Lease on Life

LINK DESIGNER: Sandia National Laboratories nuclear weapon designer Carl Vanecek holds an example of a "strong link," part of a nuclear weapon designed to keep it from going off accidentally. Vanecek is working on designs for new strong links, part of a long-term effort to refurbish weapons in the U.S. stockpile.

AARON WILSON/JOURNAL



■ *Stockpile program examines arms to see what components need replacing*

BY JOHN FLECK
Journal Staff Writer

The little metal box Carl Vanecek holds in his hand is no ordinary combination lock.

Since the 1970s, devices like these have stood between a safely stored U.S. nuclear weapon and accidental Armageddon.

As long as there are nuclear weapons in the stockpile, Vanecek, a Sandia National Laboratories nuclear weapons designer, is committed to making sure they are safe.

"We take our job of developing safety components particularly seriously," Vanecek said in a recent interview.

But the weapons are aging, and the U.S. government has no plans to build new bombs and warheads.

They are like a garage full of old cars, parked for 20 or more years but expected to run the first time they are called upon.

Now, instead of their 20-year design lifetime, military planners are talking about keeping them around for another 25 or more years.

"The stockpile we have is the stockpile we're going to continue to have indefinitely," said Larry Witt, director of Los Alamos National Laboratory's stockpile systems program.

So Vanecek and his colleagues at U.S.

nuclear weapons laboratories are redesigning weapons from the inside out.

Piece by piece, they are examining every component inside U.S. warheads, figuring out what pieces are aging unacceptably, and designing replacements.

They are part of the Department of Energy's Stockpile Life Extension Program. Working with the Pentagon and teams at U.S. nuclear weapons plants, they plan to gradually rebuild the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

Key nuclear parts, like the plutonium at the weapons' hearts, are not likely to change, the weaponeers say. But many other components, from electronic systems to plastic parts, might

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Aging Nuclear Weapons Get New Lease on Life

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eed to be replaced as their materials decay.

"Nuclear weapons do age," said Steve Goodrum, who is heading the effort for the Energy Department's Albuquerque Operations Office. They're aging gracefully, but at some point in time refurbishment is required."

Lab and energy department officials say no serious problems caused by aging have yet been found. But they nevertheless believe they have to start the refurbishment work now for two reasons.

First, the cadre of weapons designers with the expertise needed to start working on the job is aging.

Officials would like to begin work now on redesigning components so the veterans who designed the original parts can pass on their accumulated wisdom to new recruits.

"The newest weapons are 20 years old," said Dave Larson, one of the senior managers of Sandia's weapons program. "These people are approaching retirement."

Second, it is a massive job.

"That's going to be an effort that's going to require decades," Witt said.

tinkerer's dream

Carl Vanecek is the sort of tinker-

er who likes to take apart toys to see how they work.

That makes his little metal box a tinkerer's dream.

Called a "strong link," it is one piece of a chain of components used to detonate a nuclear weapon.

Its purpose is simple: Feed in the correct firing code, and it starts the sequence of steps required to explode the bomb.

Feed it the wrong code, or damage it in an accident, and it blocks the bomb from going off.

"A weapon never goes off when it's not supposed to," Larson said.

In testing, Sandia engineers burn them in horrendous fires and smash them in vicious crashes to make sure that in an accident the circuit needed to fire the bomb will not be completed.

Inside, the device is the most complex combination lock imaginable, 458 stainless steel parts tightly packed in a space the size of a cigarette pack.

Its parts are all mechanical, rather than electronic, to avoid the risks that an electronic system poses in a fire or crash.

In an age where electronics have taken the place of mechanical systems in most of the manufactured devices in our everyday world, Vanecek said, "I believe it's a mechanical engineer's dream to

work on strong links."

So Vanecek and his colleagues are starting from scratch, trying to think about how to make a better, more reliable strong link for two of the most important weapons in the U.S. stockpile — the W80 and W76 missile warheads.

When they are done, they hope to have a design that is simpler to manufacture and more reliable than the first generation of strong links designed more than two decades ago.

Said Larson, "We've had 25 years to think about this."

Stockpile stewardship

Since the early 1990s, researchers at the nation's three nuclear weapons labs — Los Alamos, Sandia and Lawrence Livermore — have been working on a project called "Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship."

The program was launched after the last U.S. underground nuclear test blast, to find ways to maintain U.S. nuclear weapons without actually blowing them up.

They tear apart aging weapons to look for defects, conduct non-nuclear experiments to understand the materials inside the weapons, and use supercomputers to simulate the complex physics of a weapon's performance.

Stockpile Life Extension takes the

product of that research and converts it to real-life weapon components, said Tom Hunter, head of Sandia's nuclear weapons program.

"This is a natural extension, a natural evolution of the Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship program," he said in a recent interview.

Piece by piece, Hunter said, lab scientists are methodically studying every single component in the weapons — how each is aging, and if any needs to be rebuilt, how they could be made better.

Sandia has responsibility for the weapon's non-nuclear parts — the electronic circuits and firing and safety systems. Los Alamos weaponeers, meanwhile, are focused on the nuclear parts — the explosives and uranium and plutonium parts.

Critics have suggested the scientists should just try to build exact replicas of any component that needs to be replaced. But Hunter said in many cases that is not possible because available manufacturing technologies change.

Imagine, he said, the problems facing someone trying to build an 8-track tape today.

"We can't build many of the things that we could before," he said.

The idea, Hunter explained, is to make new weapon components that perform exactly the same as the

piece they are replacing.

Same old weapons

The program has its critics. Early efforts were criticized by the U.S. General Accounting Office as being wasteful, a problem program officials say they believe they have corrected.

Antinuclear activists charge it is a ruse for improving the military capabilities of U.S. nuclear weapons under the guise of refurbishing them and extending their lives.

Where changes are possible to make the warheads more potent, the labs are pursuing them, said Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, a Santa Fe peace group.

Hunter disagreed.

"These are not new weapons," he said. "The functionality is basically the same."

The goal, Los Alamos' Witt said, is to make the refurbished weapon match as closely as possible the original tested underground before the test moratorium was put in place.

"We're trying to put the weapon back to an as-tested state," Witt said.

Work is under way at the labs on the W76, carried by submarine-launched missiles, and the W80, carried by cruise missiles launched from Air Force bombers.

Extensive modifications also are

planned for the B61, a multiuse nuclear bomb that uses antiquated electronic tubes in its firing radar. And schedules have been laid out for refurbishment of other weapons in the U.S. stockpile over the next 20 or more years.

It is a long process.

The first of the refurbished weapons, the B61, will not roll off of the assembly line until 2004, with the first W80s scheduled for 2006 and the first W76 in 2007, according to Goodrum.

For the labs, the Stockpile Life Extension Program has been rejuvenating.

Before the end of testing, designing new weapons was a big part of the workload. "That was kind of the basis of how we kept the engine running," Hunter said.

With the end of testing in 1992, much of the effort shifted to non-nuclear experiments and weapon surveillance, but the practical work of designing real weapon components was not there.

The Stockpile Life Extension Program has replaced some of that focus, with designers working on real components for real stockpile weapons, lab officials say.

"Now they have put that paradigm back," Hunter said.

"What you've got in this is a sense of mission," Witt said.

It's a Bomb!(United States military policy). Alistair Millar.
The Progressive 65.8 (August 2001): p21.

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Bush's Baby Nuke

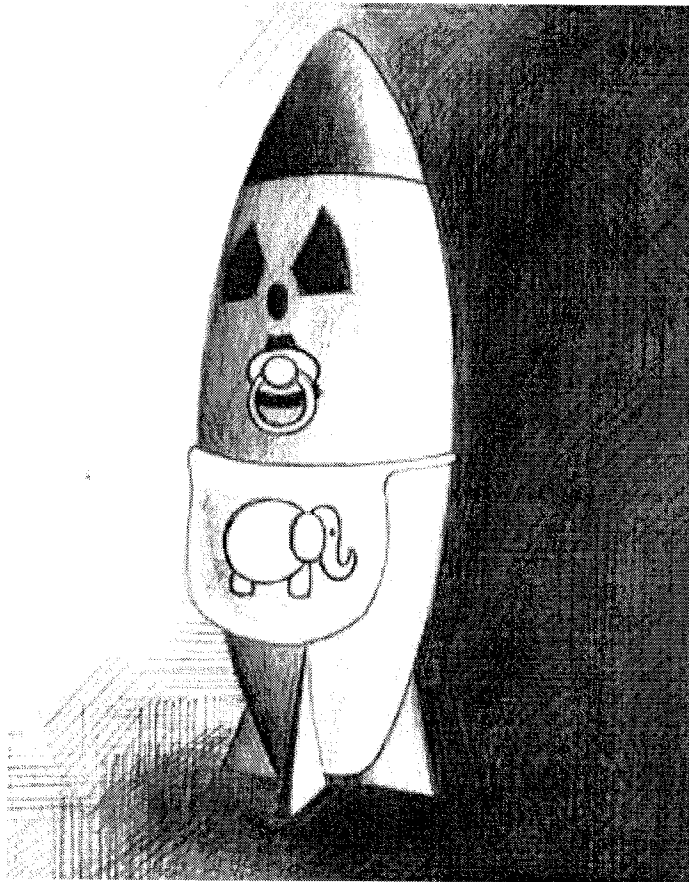
On October 2, 1992, President George Bush signed into law a moratorium on nuclear testing. Now his son is preparing to end that moratorium.

The current Bush Administration is studying options for the development and production of a small, low-yield nuclear weapon called an earth-penetrator or bunker-buster, which would burrow into the ground and destroy a deeply buried hideaway of a "rogue" leader like Saddam Hussein.

But such a bomb would take many more people with it.

"The use of any nuclear weapon capable of destroying a buried target that is otherwise immune to conventional attack will necessarily produce enormous numbers of civilian casualties," writes Dr. Robert Nelson, a professor of theoretical science at Princeton University, in a recent study for the Federation of American Scientists. "No earth-burrowing missile can penetrate deep

enough into the earth to contain an explosion with a nuclear yield even as small as 1 percent of the 15-kiloton Hiroshima weapon. The explosion simply blows out a crater of radioactive dirt, which rains down on the local region with an especially intense and deadly fallout."



The blast from one of these weapons would "knock down nearly all homes and apartments--and kill nearly all the people in them--out to distances of greater than half a mile from the blast," says Greg Mello, who directs the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear weapons policy research and education group based in Santa Fe. Those who survived the blast would suffer a lethal dose of radiation, he predicts. "To take a specific example," says Mello, "if the target in question were the Iraqi presidential bunker located in south-central Baghdad, there would be very roughly 20,000 people located within one-half mile of this target."

If the Bush Administration proceeds with the bunker-buster nuke, it would signal a frightening departure for U.S nuclear policy. The United States would be reneging on its pledge not to develop new nuclear weapons, and this would violate the spirit if not the letter of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which are geared to the elimination of nuclear weapons, not the making of new ones.

What's more, it would, for the first time in almost fifteen years, confer legitimacy on the idea that nuclear weapons have a suitable role to play even in conventional warfare. This leaping of the firewall would increase the likelihood of nuclear weapons being used in the next decade or so. And it could turn a conventional war into a full-blown nuclear catastrophe.

But that's not how the bunker-buster would be sold. Chances are, it would be coupled with an announcement that the United States is reducing its strategic nuclear stockpile, which Bush pledged to do in the Presidential campaign. And we would hear how it is a designer weapon that is ideal for targeting "rogue" dictators.

"One senior adviser to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said that the Iraqi leader would not be deterred by current U.S. nuclear weapons 'because he knows a U.S. President would not drop a 100-kiloton bomb on Baghdad' and destroy the entire city," Walter Pincus of The Washington Post reported on April 15. The implication is that if the United States builds a bunker-buster, it would feel free to use the weapon.

Scientists at the nuclear labs, anxious to keep themselves busy, boast of how functional these weapons would be.

C. Paul Robinson, the president and director of the Sandia National Laboratory, this spring released a paper on the subject, entitled "Pursuing a New Nuclear Weapons Policy for the 21st Century." In it, he stresses the need for nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future and says low-yield--but not too low-yield--nukes are the way to go. "I believe that we would desire primarily low-yield weapons with highly accurate delivery systems for deterrence in the non-Russian world," Robinson argues. "Here, I'm not talking about sub-kiloton weapons (i.e., 'mini-nukes'), as some have advocated, but devices in the low-kiloton regime, in order to contemplate the destruction of some buried or hidden targets, while being mindful of the need to minimize collateral damage. I believe we can achieve the low-yield levels that are likely to be most appropriate for deterring wider threats, particularly if we are unable to design and test new weapons under a nuclear testing moratorium."

Robinson's faith in "highly accurate" bombs would surprise the families of the victims of the Chinese embassy bombing in Belgrade or of the bombings in Iraq. "Highly accurate" bombs often miss their target.

But the drive for the bunker-buster is gaining momentum. Republican Senators John Warner of Virginia and Wayne Allard of Colorado added a provision to the 2001 defense authorization bill that requires the Departments of Energy and Defense to conduct a new study on the use of nuclear weapons in small-scale conventional conflicts against dictators who are holed up in "hard and deeply buried targets." The study is expected to appear in July.

This may lead to the undoing of a Congressional prohibition on testing new nuclear weapons. In 1993, Representatives Elizabeth Furse, Democrat of Oregon, and John Spratt Jr., Democrat of South Carolina, recognized that something had to be done to prevent the development of useable nuclear weapons. They wisely added a provision to the fiscal year 1994 defense authorization bill prohibiting nuclear laboratories from research and development that could lead to a low-yield nuclear weapon. Bush, Warner, and Allard are likely to favor legislation that would negate the Furse-Spratt provision.

The development of these bunker-buster weapons would jeopardize, not enhance, U.S. security. It would give a further incentive to Russia to cling to its own extremely problematic tactical nuclear arsenal. It would compel other countries to embark upon their own programs and increase the perceived need to join the nuclear club. The small size and portability of these weapons would increase their vulnerability to theft by nonnuclear states and potential nuclear terrorists. And if the United States used these weapons against a nuclear power or an ally of a nuclear power, it would be toying with all-out nuclear war.

Plus, the very way these weapons would be used in battle adds to the potential for unauthorized or accidental use. Unlike strategic nuclear weapons, these smaller tactical nuclear weapons are deployed nearer the front line; they are far more susceptible to communications problems under crisis conditions, and they can be fired by a person in the field without going through the stringent safety precautions that govern the launch of strategic nuclear weapons.

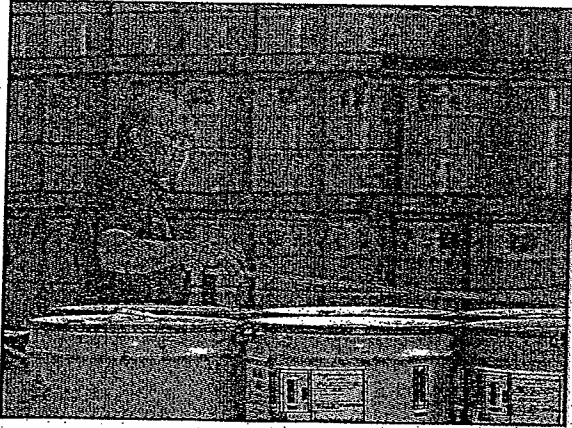
The bunker-buster nuke lulls us into believing the dangerous and false notion that nuclear weapons can be used without posing a pernicious threat to human life and the environment. They cannot.

The path toward greater U.S. security is through cooperative measures of disarmament, not unilateral acts of rearmament. The last thing we need is a new kind of nuclear weapon.

Alistair Millar heads the Washington office of the Fourth Freedom Forum, a peace and disarmament group based in Goshen, Indiana.

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Thomson Gale Document Number: A76697707



JOSH STEPHENSON/JOURNAL

DAILY INSPECTION: George Newman, radiological control technician, surveys some of the many barrels of waste retrieved from pits where they were buried 20 years ago.

Lab Says Waste Is Safe

Critics Say No One Knows What's Buried Under TA-54

BY JENNIFER MCKEE
Journal Staff Writer

8/6/01

Heading north toward Los Alamos on Highway 4, you will see them. Enormous, white plastic tents atop a mesa of rainbow-colored hardened volcanic ash. Inside each is a dizzyingly monotonous spread of identical white 55-gallon drums, stacked palate upon palate, row upon row.

Each one full of radioactive, nuclear waste.

In lab lingo, this mesa is Technical Area 54, Area G, a nuclear waste dump, and the tents are only the most visible part of the picture. Buried beneath them are decades worth of unsorted nuclear trash.

Not surprisingly, this area — home to buried plutonium among other things — attracts both skepticism and fear.

Both the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which owns the dump, and the Department of Energy, which operates the lab, are adamant that the tents and the radioactive waste they sit upon, as well as 1,200 new drums of nuclear waste the lab stores there each year, are safe.

Critics, citing DOE documents, say no one really knows what's buried at the site or what such radioactive garbage will do to the environment.

The tents, at least, and the waste they house, are destined for removal, said Ray Hahn, head of the lab's solid waste operations, as he drives around the site in a silver government-owned Dodge Caravan.

"It's a temporary solution," he said.

But temporary, in this case, means 30 or more years. And most of the waste — everything buried beneath the

See CRITICS on PAGE 6

tents and the low-level waste slowly piling up in new, active pits — is scheduled to stay there forever.

"I believe Los Alamos doesn't know how much waste they have buried and how much plutonium is in that waste. It's a serious environmental and security problem and they're not doing anything serious about it," said Arjun Makhijani, president of the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research in Virginia. He called the lab's plan to leave the waste buried "the paper-plate approach to nuclear-waste management — just toss it and cap it."

"They don't like to do dishes," Makhijani said.

Activists closer to home agree.

"It's a toxic, chemical landfill," said Greg Mello of the Santa Fe-based Los Alamos Study Group. It's a nuclear waste dump that now handles waste bad enough to belong at WIPP but opened with none of the public input or permanent storage facilities WIPP has.

No laws for waste

Technical Area 54 opened in 1957, Hahn said. By then, lab officials had thought better of earlier nuclear waste disposal methods, which in addition to shallow pit burial consisted of pushing garbage off mesas or discharging waste into canyon bottoms.

TA-54 was the lab's technologically advanced, centralized solution to nuclear waste, Hahn said, and while the site's early methods would be illegal today, at the time, it was standard operating procedure for any nuclear facility.

Back then, Hahn said, there were no laws governing the disposal of nuclear waste. The site's managers treated radioactive waste much like any city landfill treats household garbage today: The waste was unsorted, dumped pell-mell, unpackaged into a series of pits, which were later covered in dirt. In the earliest days, Hahn said, the site's managers didn't keep close records on what ended up in the dump. Not until the 1960s, did TA-54's managers start keeping reliable records.

The most radioactive stuff was buried in deep shafts, some lined with metal, some not.

That practice continued until 1979, Hahn said, when new federal laws and an emerging, more responsible view of nuclear waste came over DOE.

Officials could see the day, Hahn said, when the government would open a special dump just for nuclear waste. The new laws put stricter regulations on nuclear waste and divided the garbage into three categories, each demanding a different level of protection:

- Low-level radioactive waste — anything that can safely be buried in shallow pits;

- High-level nuclear waste — spent reactor fuel or waste generated as a result of processing of spent fuel;

- And TRU or transuranic nuclear waste — anything that puts out more than 100 nanocuries per gram of radioactivity. Anything less radioactive than that is considered low-level waste. Transuranic waste must be buried in a special repository like WIPP.

TA-54 has no high-level waste, Hahn said. But the site did and continues to handle transuranic waste. Before 1979, all that waste was dumped in pits at TA-54 and will not be dug up and taken to WIPP.

'Temporary' tents

After 1979, low-level waste continued to be buried in shallow pits, which is still the legal requirement for such radioactive garbage.

Transuranic waste, the stuff the government thought would one day be stored in a special site, got different treatment. Waste managers began packing it in 55-gallon drums. The drums were then stored atop an asphalt pad, framed by boards, packed in plastic and buried under several feet of soil.

The point, Hahn said, was to store the waste in such a way workers could dig it up again and move it to a permanent dump like WIPP.

The drums stayed in their piles for almost 20 years. In the 1990s, the lab decided to dig up 16 of them to see how they were holding up.

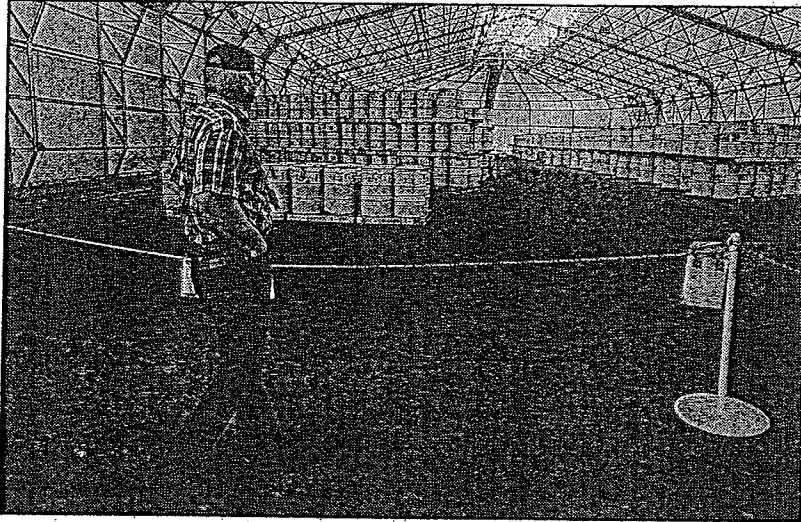
"We took them out and they seemed to be doing pretty good," Hahn said.

The New Mexico Environment Department didn't think so.

Some of the drums had holes in them. The agency fined the lab \$600,000 and demanded the lab dig up the drums, examine them and store them in a way where state inspectors could look at the drums regularly to make sure they're safe.

Hence the tents. Built as temporary storage, the tents are a sort of transuranic purgatory — a place to be before heading off to WIPP.

Originally, DOE projected all 17,000 drums would be gone by 2013. Today, the agency pegs that date closer to 2030, which means the tents must now house the waste for more than a generation, a task



JOSH STEPHENSON/JOURNAL

TENTS MUST HOLD UP: Ray Hahn, head of solid waste operations at Los Alamos National Laboratory, enters one of the tented storage facilities filled with barrels awaiting transfer to WIPP.

they were never designed to do.

Each tent costs about \$2 million and is treated with fire-proofing, Hahn said.

Each has a series of lightning rods mounted on top. Each is made of fire-resistant plastic, a sort of rubberized material designed to not melt through for several hours even with burning embers falling on it, according to James Nunz, who heads waste management for the DOE's Los Alamos office.

The lab cleared out all trees around the area the summer before the Cerro Grande Fire to cut down on the chance of fire and replaced all wooden pallets within the tents with metal ones to further thwart fire.

Nunz said he thought the tents were safe. His office doesn't worry about fire, they plan on it and believe the site is so fireproof it could sustain not only a forest fire, but a plane crashing into the area.

Hahn said he thought the tents were safe too, and would be safe for years to come. His workers are required by law to inspect the drums and tents every day for signs of wear and tear.

His problem is the cost and work of maintaining the tents and their radioactive contents. Hahn estimates the lab spends about \$5 million a year "baby sitting" the tents. At that rate, the lab will spend \$1.5 billion keeping tabs on the barrels before they can be sent to WIPP, and that's if the current schedule holds and is not extended.

The tents also drain attention away from the rest of Hahn's job: maintaining the lab's low-level nuclear waste dump still operating at TA-54.

Critics, however, aren't convinced.

"It could catch fire," Makhijani said. "That's the most important danger.

WIPP worthy?

Makhijani, along with Joni Arends of Santa Fe-based Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, says the radioactive waste belongs in permanent buildings, especially since it will be housed at Los Alamos for a long time.

"It just doesn't make sense," Arends said. "The lab should be building bunkers for that waste."

The critics save their harshest words, however, for the old buried waste, radioactive garbage the lab has no intentions of removing.

Hahn and Dennis McLaine, manager of the lab's waste facilities, both acknowledge that, under modern law, some of that buried waste belongs at WIPP. They also acknowledge that plutonium is scattered throughout the dump. But, they say, the lab will not dig that waste up.

"It was intended as permanent disposal," Hahn said.

In fact, TA-54, aside from the tented drums, won't be cleaned up at all. Instead, Hahn said, when the lab decides to close the dump the plan is to cover the whole place with a so-called "1,000-year cap," a covering of dirt and other materials designed to keep the radioactivity in and nature out for the next thousand years.

After that, Hahn said, any radioactivity coming out of the dump would be at background levels. Anything still radioactive would be so diluted by the volume of other material in the dump, it would pose no problems.

"That is just nonsense," Makhijani said. For one thing, plutonium, which everyone agrees is in the mix of buried nuclear waste, has a half-life of 24,000 years. Bury plutonium for 1,000 years — presuming such caps even exist — and you still have very radioactive plutonium, he said.

Facing nature

Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group said the geology of TA-54 doesn't bode well for keeping plutonium, or any other waste, stationary for long. He points to a lab-generated report of TA-54 from the 1970s. In it, the author wrote about a maze of cracks and fissures in the mesa, cracks that suggest the pits are far from waterproof. He also criticizes the current pit covering, three feet of crushed tuff.

"It's essentially playground sand," Mello said.

That's just part of the problem, Makhijani said — once you release

nuclear waste in the environment, even if you try to contain it, nature eventually takes over.

"What does anybody know of 1,000-year caps?" he said. "The nuclear weapons complex doesn't have a very good track record in burial technology over the last 50 years. They have changed their estimations on what happens to plutonium in the ground drastically and radically."

Nunz said the lab has 44 shallow wells and one deep aquifer well around the site to check for signs of drifting contamination. So far, they have found nothing. The Energy Department also plans to drill two more deep aquifer wells around the area in the next two years.

Makhijani said he's especially concerned that no one seems to know what's buried at TA-54 — or anywhere in the DOE complex — and the agency has admitted as much.

Makhijani's group wrote a report in 1997 called "Containing the Cold War Mess," which concluded the agency has poor records of buried waste and doesn't know exactly what it buried.

Spurred by Makhijani's report, DOE commissioned a closer look at all documents outlining buried waste and released an inventory last summer that concluded while the total volume of buried waste was about what they thought, there was 10 times more radioactivity in it than previously reported.

Tough second look

Who knows how much transuranic waste DOE would find if it went through its records more meticulously, Makhijani said.

"They haven't put in the effort to sift through the documents and find out what they dumped," he said. "It's not impossible."

Hahn said Los Alamos is an exception.

"We do have detailed data and we have provided that data to the Environment Department," he said. "We've got some real good information."

Makhijani disputes that.

"I believe the Los Alamos-buried waste is not well characterized," he said, "and DOE has agreed with our estimation."

He thinks there's probably enough plutonium buried at TA-54 to make "dozens of bombs."

The DOE's same 2000 inventory would seem to shoot holes in the argument that no radioactive waste is getting out of the TA-54. The report said DOE had no information about contaminated soils in pits and other waste burial sites and therefore couldn't say what's happening to the buried waste.

Then-Assistant Energy Secretary Carolyn Huntoon wrote a letter to Makhijani when DOE unveiled the inventory. In it, Huntoon wrote that despite the agency's uncertainties about what's buried and what the waste is doing underground, DOE had no plans to dig up anything at places like TA-54.

"The anticipated management strategy for these wastes was to monitor them, to take remedial actions as necessary, to re-evaluate their safety periodically, and to conduct technology development as needed," Huntoon's letter read. "We believe that this approach remains sound."

And so far, Nunz said, no waste can be proven to have migrated away from TA-54 and the department believes the site is safe and stable.

But that doesn't mean DOE won't clean up the place if that changes, Nunz said. Although he didn't think the place would ever start leaking, Nunz said DOE will take another look at the site if anything radioactive starts trickling away from it.

"We will clean up those pits," he said.

For Makhijani's part, he believes the lab already has the science to show the area deserves a tough second look. Unfortunately, he said, no one is listening to the scientists who call for expensive waste treatments.

"The people who manage the waste go on as if we're still living in the 1950s," he said.

Hiroshima Bombing Defended at Rally

BY JENNIFER MCKEE

Journal Staff Writer

LOS ALAMOS — Under a blazing sun in the birthplace of nuclear bombs, a group comprised mostly of veterans gathered Monday, the anniversary of the first atomic bombing of Japan, to defend nuclear weapons.

"I, for one, am sick and tired of being told to my face that I am a

8-7-c1
murderer of women and children," said John Mench, a longtime Los Alamos resident and former member of the Army's Special Engineering Detachment that built Los Alamos in secret in 1943. "If I contributed one little bit to the development of that bomb, I, for one, am damn well proud."

Almost 150,000 Japanese, mostly civilians, died Aug. 6, 1945, when American forces dropped

the first atomic weapon ever used against people on Hiroshima. Another 74,000 died three days later when American bombers dropped a second A-bomb on Nagasaki.

But according to the Los Alamos Education Group, which sponsored Monday's events with more planned Thursday, the decision to drop the bomb must not be viewed only in terms of its destruction,

which by all accounts was swift and terrible, but also within the historical context of a war-weary America in 1945.

Stephen Stoddard of the Los Alamos Education Group said he sponsored the forum to correct what he calls "revisionist history" of people who say America was wrong to drop the bomb.

See **USE** on **PAGE 3**

Use of Nuclear Bombs on Japan Defended

from **PAGE 1**

"The anti-nuke people try to put out the story that the bomb wasn't necessary," Stoddard said.

Much of Monday's events were designed to show that bombing Japan was, lamentably, America's best option to end World War II.

The day began on the concrete banks of Ashley Pond — now a grassy park. Fifty-six years ago, it was home to the laboratories where a varied mix of physicists conceived of and hand-built the two bombs dropped on Japan.

The group also honored Navajo Code Talkers, the contingent of Diné-speaking Navajo GIs who invented an unbreakable code American war leaders used to keep track of both enemy and Allied movements.

Thomas H. Begay of Window Rock, Ariz., was a teen-age soldier fresh from his parent's sheep ranch in the summer of 1945. A Code Talker, Begay was scheduled to be deployed for the invasion of Japan

that September.

"The bomb saved me," Begay said. "I'm here because they dropped the bomb. I'm glad they dropped it."

The event, entitled "Remembering the Past, Visualizing the Future," also included a talk by the current director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, John Browne.

"This lab played a key role in ending that terrible war and in keeping the peace ever since," Browne said.

America now is a much different place, he said, and today's security concerns would probably bar the motley team of mostly foreign-born physicists who built Fat Man and Little Boy.

"I think I'd have trouble getting them a Q clearance," Browne said.

Mench, who broke into tears at one point recounting his work on the bomb, read through a rundown of reasons that pushed America to bomb Japan.

"The estimates of American lives lost in an invasion of Japan varied

between 200,000 and 1 million," he said.

Japan had called all its citizens — even children — to fight incoming Allied troops if the island nation was ever attacked, he said.

In light of such bloody, drawn-out options, the atomic bomb seemed like a swift, even merciful, way to end the war, he said.

But not everyone agreed.

Peggy Prince of Peace Action New Mexico for one.

Her group usually holds its annual anti-nuke rally at Ashley Pond every Aug. 9. The education group reserved the park for this year while Prince and her people were still marching. The move usurped the annual peace rally and bumped the event to July 16, the day the first atomic bomb was tested — the Trinity Test explosion near Alamogordo.

"Revisionism is in the eye of the beholder," she said.

Propaganda published at the end of World War II doesn't tell the whole story, she said. Only decades

later do certain facts emerge, she said, such as the controversy over the "unconditional surrender."

Americans demanded Japan cease fighting unconditionally, giving up their emperor and submitting to the American will, she said. When Japan refused, America dropped the bomb.

But, in fact, Japan didn't end up losing its emperor and received much economic help from America after the war. If Japan knew that, the nation may not have been so combatant.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group also took issue with promoting nuclear warfare.

"The Los Alamos Education Group doesn't have its history right," he said. He also challenged the bomb as a source of peace.

"We didn't have peace, No. 1, we had a Cold War," he said. "The hot fighting was displaced to the Third World. The Cold War also began a kind of unprecedented attack on civil liberties."

Article: "NUKES: Fueling an Explosive Situation?"

Publication: *Newsweek*

Date: 13 August 2001

The author of this article, Mr. John Barry, contacted our Executive Director, Greg Mello seeking information about the nuclear weapons programs at Los Alamos National Laboratory before writing his story. In response, Greg sent Mr. Barry eighty (80) pages of primary documents, exchanged eight emails, and had a few phone conversations with him to explain the information. All of these exchanges provided the basis of the factual items Mr. Barry used in the article.

In the end, the article ended up being fairly limited in scope. However, one of our board members, Christopher Paine, was quoted in the article.

Attached is a copy of this article as it ran in *Newsweek*.

Click here:

Here!

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Newsweek

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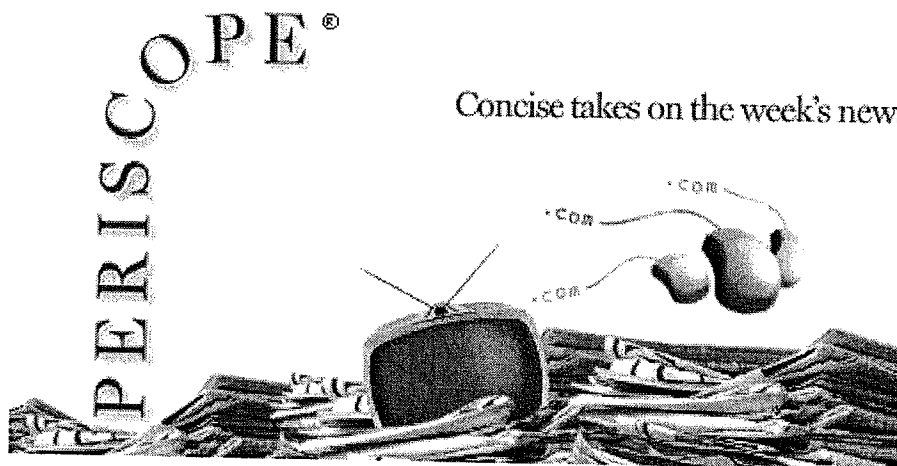
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NUKES

Fueling an Explosive Situation?

President George W. Bush's talk of "a new relationship" with Russia in which the cold-war standoff gives way to "a new strategic paradigm." Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is in Moscow this week, in fact, for talks tying U.S. missile defenses to deep cuts in nuclear weapons. But NEWSWEEK has learned that, behind the scenes, the administration is embarking on a 10-year, multibillion-dollar program to modernize capabilities to make nuclear weapons.

The force behind the program—formally titled "The Recapitalization Initiative"—is retired Air Force Gen. John Gordon, former No. 2 at the CIA who now runs the National Nuclear Security Administration. Last spring he warned Congress that so much of the nuclear complex was decrepit that "we're faced with ... a crisis in the facilities." At a briefing for the president and top officials, Bush expressed dismay at the state of the plants—but aides held that a formal proposal to upgrade the facilities would generate fresh controversy about Bush's defense priorities. Gordon threatened to resign, sources say.

The upshot: Gordon—who declined to comment—won the OK to deal directly with two powerful congressional allies: Sens. Harry Reid of Nevada (home of the U.S. nuclear-test site) and Pete Domenici of New Mexico (home to two nuclear-weapons labs). Together, the pair have inserted \$800 million into next year's budget, a down payment on the upgrade that's expected to survive in budget conference with the House.

Gordon, sources say, argued that \$800 million is needed to meet maintenance backlog. (To modernize the complex, he has said, would cost about \$5 billion more over the next 10 years.) Though it's shrunk by close to half in the aftermath of the cold war, the nuclear infrastructure remains vast: three design labs, four manufacturing plants—63,000 separate buildings. Two thirds of them are more than 25 years old; a quarter date from the 1940s. At the most run-down plant, Y-12 in Oak Ridge, Tenn., structures from WWII's Manhattan Project are still in use.

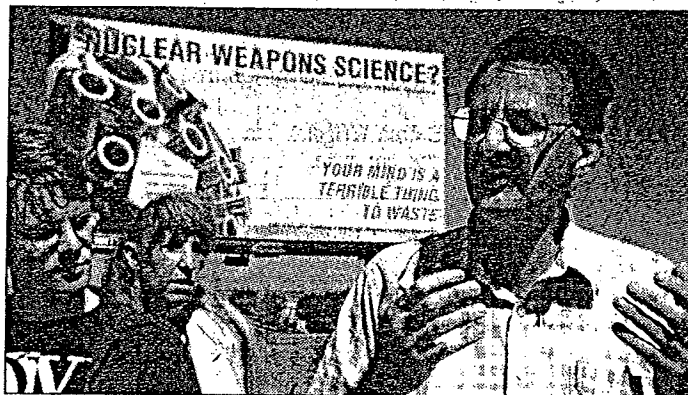
Critics say the upgrade's not needed. "We don't need a huge nuclear establishment anymore," says Christopher Paine, nuclear expert at the Natural Resources Defense Council. A senior administration official asserts: "We are still in the business of nuclear deterrence."

John Barry

THE VALLEY

I-580 billboard targets Lab weapons researchers

Group wants work on 'civilian' science only



JIM STEVENS — Staff

Andreas Toupadakis (right), a former Lawrence Livermore Laboratory scientist, speaks as former lab worker Issac Trotts (left) and Communities Against a Radioactive Environment executive director Marylia Kelley listen.

By Glenn Roberts Jr.
STAFF WRITER

LIVERMORE — An anti-nuclear billboard message, intended to probe the consciences of scientists working at Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, questions those who choose careers in nuclear weapons research.

Unveiled Friday at the Portola Avenue onramp to westbound Interstate 580, the 11-by-24 sign was paid for by Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment, a nuclear watchdog group based in Livermore.

Lab officials said they don't expect the billboard to impact the work force, and Tri-Valley CAREs members are "certainly entitled to have their opinion."

Marylia Kelley, executive director for Tri-Valley CAREs, and other members of the

organization celebrated the debut of the sign during an event Monday at the foot of the billboard.

The billboard display, spelled out in red letters against a yellow background, states: "NUCLEAR WEAPONS SCIENCE? YOUR MIND IS A TERRIBLE THING TO WASTE."

Kelley said the billboard is the group's latest effort "to convert Livermore Lab from nuclear weapons research to civilian science" and to facilitate an "exodus" away from weapons work at the lab.

Researchers at Livermore Lab and its counterpart, Los Alamos Lab in New Mexico, are "actively and aggressively" involved in nuclear weapons development efforts, she said.

Tri-Valley CAREs plans to follow up on

the billboard message with a letter-writing campaign early next year to encourage every lab employee to seek jobs beyond Livermore Lab's fences, she added.

The billboard message, which will stand for a month, also features an image of the metallic central chamber to the National Ignition Facility laser project under construction at Livermore Lab.

"And it bears another message in small black letters: "NIF is intended to train a new generation of bomb designers."

The sign cost the group \$5,000 to rent for one month, and the group also contracted to use the sign space for one month in each of the next two years. About 24,000

Please see **Board**, LOCAL-2

Board: 24,000 people a day could see sign

Continued from LOCAL-1

people per day are expected to see the sign, Kelley said.

NIF, which officials have said will cost between \$3.5 billion to \$4 billion to complete, is a nuclear weapons research tool expected to generate thermonuclear explosions on a tiny scale by blasting radioactive fuel pellets with powerful ultraviolet laser beams.

The project is an estimated \$1 billion over budget and six years behind its original schedule.

"(The billboard) invites scientists and engineers to ponder the NIF's role in advancing nuclear weapons science," Kelley said.

Two former Livermore Lab employees, who left their jobs to seek work outside of the nuclear weapons complex, also joined Kelley at the billboard dedication event.

Issac Trotts, a former lab computer scientist who left the lab earlier this year, said, "I think the time for nuclear weapons is over."

Andreas Toupadakis, a former nuclear chemist at Livermore Lab, likened weapons scientists to Nazi scientists: "Today our colleagues are . . . building up the 'nuclear gas chambers' of humanity," he said.

Susan Houghton, a Livermore Lab spokeswoman, said the billboard is "a good example

of the First Amendment . . . (but) we don't think it will do anything to discourage people from working on NIF."

Highways leading to and from Los Alamos Lab are blanketed with anti-nuclear billboard messages paid for by the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear watchdog group based in Santa Fe, N.M.

Greg Mello, executive director for the study group, said the billboard campaign there has a similar message.

"People need to lift up their heads from their desks and their lab benches and look at how their program fits in to the larger picture," Mello said. "We wish to make a direct assault on the morale of people working on nuclear weapons."

The group is renting six signs now, carrying messages such as "New Mexico: World capital of weapons of mass destruction," and "Welcome to New Mexico: America's Nuclear Weapons Colony."

Tourists, local residents and visitors to Los Alamos are the target audience, he explained. The signs have drawn mixed reviews from lab employees since the group rented the first billboard space in 1998.

"The negatives outweigh the positives from the lab 2-to-1," Mello said, "but that's a lot of positives."

PUBLIC FORUMS SCHEDULED

Within hours of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC, Greg Mello at the Los Alamos Study Group had three public forums scheduled for later in the week.

A forum is scheduled in Santa Fe at 7 pm, Sept. 12 at the Unitarian Church, 107 W. Barcelona Road.

At 7 pm, Sept. 13, there will be another forum at The University of New Mexico's Continuing Education Conference Center in Albuquerque, 1634 University Blvd.

There will be a third forum at 7 pm, Sept. 14, in Los Alamos at the Topper Theater at Los Alamos High School. "What we think is important is that people gather in a public place and talk about real security," Mello said. "We need to talk about how much security comes from doing good in the world so people don't hate us."

"We could feed billions of people in the world for much less than we spend on defending ourselves," Mello said. "We don't have to follow the path of imperial Rome into oblivion."

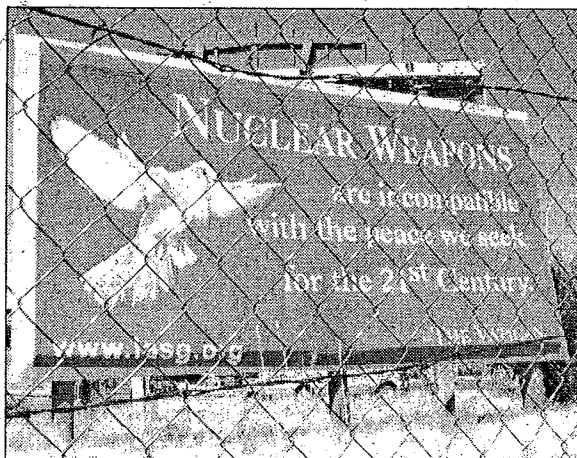
Coincidentally, a peace retreat co-sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the Los Alamos Study Group, was scheduled to begin the day after the terrorist incidents.

"We'd love for anyone who wants to attend the retreat to just show up," said Lydia Clark, a Los Alamos Study Group volunteer.

The retreat was scheduled to run Sept. 12 through 15, and is located at the Ponderosa Campground in Bandalier National Monument, abutting Los Alamos National Laboratory, Clark said. Those attending the retreat will talk about and pray for world peace.

For more information, contact LASG at 982-7747. (WW)

The LASG, which sponsors this billboard, also will sponsor three public forums this week.



SF Reporter, Sep 12-18, 2001

Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: Donations
Date: September 12, 2001
Page: A12

TERROR STRIKES AMERICA Albuquerque Those who want to make a financial contribution to the efforts on the East Coast can do so online. The United Way is accepting credit card donations on its Web site, www.uwcnm.org. Checks may also be mailed to the United Way of Central New Mexico, 302 Eighth St. N.W., Albuquerque, NM 87102. All donations go directly to help victims and their families.

To discuss

A series of public forums on domestic and international security has been organized by the **Los Alamos Study Group**. They are titled: "Security in the Wake of Violence: Where Do We Go From Here?"

The schedule is:

Today: 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Church in Santa Fe (Barcelona Road at the corner of Galiseo Street).

Thursday: 7 p.m. at the UNM Continuing Education Center, Room C (1634 University Blvd. N.E., just north of Indian School Road).

Friday: 7 p.m. at Los Alamos High School (1300 Diamond Drive in Los Alamos).

For information, call (505) 982-7747.

On the Web

For up-to-the minute updates, photos and slide shows of the attack on America, visit The Tribune's Web site at www.abqtrib.com. Voice your opinions and discuss your feelings in our disaster forum, linked through our News section. Archives of all Tribune stories on the Sept. 11 crisis are at www.abqtrib.com/disaster/

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Paper: New Mexican, The (Santa Fe, NM)
Title: What you can do to help
Author: The New Mexican
Date: September 12, 2001
Section: Special Sections

United Blood Services, at the intersection of Zia and Rodeo roads in the Rodeo Plaza Shopping Center, has expanded its hours today and will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. so people can donate blood. St. Francis Cathedral will celebrate Mass at 5:15 p.m. today for the victims of the New York and Washington terrorist attacks and the passengers of the hijacked airplanes and for protection of the United States. The Mass will be followed by ecumenical prayer service at 6:30 p.m. Call 982-5619.

The Unity Church of Santa Fe is hosting a prayer vigil through 6 a.m. Thursday as part of the Unity Prayer Vigil and World Day of Prayer. Prayers will be said for victims of the East Coast terrorist attacks. The church is at 1108 La Cuchara Road, off of Camino de los Montoyas and N.M. 599. Call 989-4433.

The **Los Alamos Study Group** is sponsoring a panel at 7 p.m. today to discuss domestic and international security and civil liberties. The panel will be held at Folgelson Hall, the Unitarian Church on Barcelona Road. Other meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in Room C, the University of New Mexico's Continuing Education Conference Center, Albuquerque, and at 7 p.m. Friday at Los Alamos High School. Call 982-7747.

The First Church of Christ, Scientist will hold its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. today at 323 E. Cordova Road, focusing its lesson on healing in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. The public is invited to attend. Call 982-5477.

The Christian Science Reading Room will be open for extended hours from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. today, Thursday and Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday. The Reading Room is at 142 Lincoln Ave., Suite 201. Call 982-1342.

The Church of the Holy Faith will hold a prayer service at noon today to offer prayers for the nation, the victims of Tuesday's violence and for their families. The service, with hymns, will be held at the church, 311 East Palace Ave. Call 982-4447.

Author: The New Mexican
Section: Special Sections

Study group plans forums

Los Alamos Study Group will conduct a series of public forums in Northern New Mexico on domestic and international security, civil liberties and related issues.

The discussions are organized under the title "Security in the wake of violence: Where do we go from here?"

The discussions will include facilitated discussions, problem solving and short presentations by invited guests.

After meetings in Santa Fe today and Albuquerque on Thursday, the group will hold a meeting in Los Alamos on Friday.

The forum will begin at 7 p.m. in the Topper Theater at Los Alamos High School, 1300 Diamond Dr.

The study group is a non-profit disarmament research and education organization.

Monitor 9/12/9

Date--09/12/2001 Edition--Journal North Page--2

Closures, cancellations

The following public offices are expected to be closed today:

* Federal Emergency Management Agency Cerro Grande Fire service centers in Los Alamos and Espanola.

* Pojoaque Public Schools and athletic events canceled; staff and administration should report to work. School board meets at 6 p.m. at the Pablo Roybal Elementary School.

* Sporting events at West Las Vegas Schools are canceled.

Others:

* The scheduled inauguration Saturday of St. John's College President John Balkcom is postponed, as is an inaugural concert Friday at the Lensic Performing Arts Center.

* Santa Fe Public Schools field trips are canceled for the remainder of the week; school is open.

* Los Alamos Schools are open, but families should listen to the news this morning for updates.

* Santa Fe city and county government offices are expected to be open today.

The following events have been planned related to Tuesday's attacks:

* A Unity day of prayer continues all day and all night through 6 a.m. Thursday at Unity Church of Santa Fe, 1108 La Cuchara (off Camino de los Montoyas). Contact: 989-4433.

* A citywide Mass for all Catholic parishes at 5:15 p.m. at St. Francis Cathedral in Santa Fe. An ecumenical prayer service follows at 6:30 p.m. Contact: 982-5619.

* The Los Alamos Study Group will hold a series of public discussions on "Security in the Wake of Violence: Where Do We Go From Here?" First session at 7 p.m. today at the Unitarian Church, Barcelona and Galisteo in Santa Fe. Again at 7 p.m. Friday at Los Alamos High School. Contact: 982-7747.

Residents Pray for Peace, Healing

Groups Gather In City To Find Comfort

BY K.C. MASON,
WREN PROPP AND
JENNIFER MCKEE
Journal Staff Writers

9/11/2001

Santa Feans of different faiths and philosophies gathered at locations around the city Tuesday night to talk and pray over Tuesday's deadly terrorist attacks — and what happens next.

"I'm here to ask for God's help for something that is too big for us," said Joe Cieszinski of Santa Fe, one of about 150 people attending a prayer service at the nondenominational Capital Christian Church.

Cieszinski, the owner of Cornerstone Books and Gifts, said customers to his store Tuesday took the events in Washington, D.C., and New York City very seriously.

"I know a lot of people were going to many places to pray," he said. "People just perceived a great need to pray.

Capital Christian's senior pastor, Ron Sebesta, offered the microphone to anyone who wanted to

"America needs to be healed. It's easy to point fingers but judgment points first to the house of God."

RON SEBESTA, PASTOR

pray. Some read passages from the Bible and asked for God's mercy and guidance.

"This even transcends politics and whatever political divisions there may be," said one man as he prayed for the nation's leadership.

Sebesta urged those in attendance to look to their own hearts for forgiveness before judging others.

"America needs to be healed," he said. "It's easy to point fingers but judgment points first to the house of God."

Members of the United Church of Santa Fe off St. Michael's Drive prayed for relief from feelings of revenge and for peace throughout the Middle East.

The Rev. Talitha Arnold asked people in the sanctuary to remember that God is not a God of hate.

A commentator on a radio program chilled her Tuesday with his description of religious warfare and holy wars, she said.

Arnold asked the congregation to

go out and proclaim "that God is not a God of death and destruction but a God of life for all people."

"We must say it again and again," she said.

Tearfully, many at the church asked for God's presence in those still trapped in the rubble in New York and for their loved ones. They also asked that God grant peace to the children of Palestine and Israel. And they asked for love for children who grow up in cultures where they are encouraged to become suicide bombers.

Cary Arden of Santa Fe said she attended the United Church service because she needed to hear something other than the constant blare of destruction from the television.

"I needed to be with people, with people of peace," she said.

At the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church near downtown Santa Fe, Police Chaplain José Villegas led a

See **RESIDENTS** on **PAGE 2**

Residents Gather To Pray for Healing, Peace

from PAGE 1

prayer vigil attended by about 20 people.

Villegas said he organized the event to pray for the police and fire officers who were killed in the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings in New York or at the Pentagon.

An ecumenical prayer service at the historic Loretto Chapel in downtown Santa Fe for about 50 people

9/12/2001
was led by Archbishop Richard Gundry of the Church of the Antioch.

His message was that openly grieving for the loss of the country's peace and of the loss of families' well-being was a step toward healing.

"We need to cry, we need to beat our breast ... then feel forgiveness," Gundry said.

Isabel Griego and Angie Ortiz, both of Santa Fe, said they attended the service because they needed to

pray. "We came to pray for everybody, especially those who have died," Ortiz said.

Holding candles under a starless night sky, a small group gathered on the east side of the state Capitol to pray and appeal for peace, not retaliation.

"My name is Trish," said one participant. "I pray that the love and peace that all of us have in our hearts will overcome."

"My name is Francine," said another. "I hope for healing. I hope

for restraint."

"I hope there won't be any more killing," said Greg Mello, whose Santa Fe-based disarmament organization, the Los Alamos Study Group, informally organized the gathering.

"On the one hand, I'm a bit frightened," said Jim Reale, who had three brothers and many nieces and nephews in Manhattan. "But I'm also frightened about the response of the U.S. government."

LANL shuts down amid terrorist acts on East Coast

► Official says similar attacks on nuclear-weapons lab would be hard to stop

9/12/01

By **KRISTEN DAVENPORT**
The New Mexican

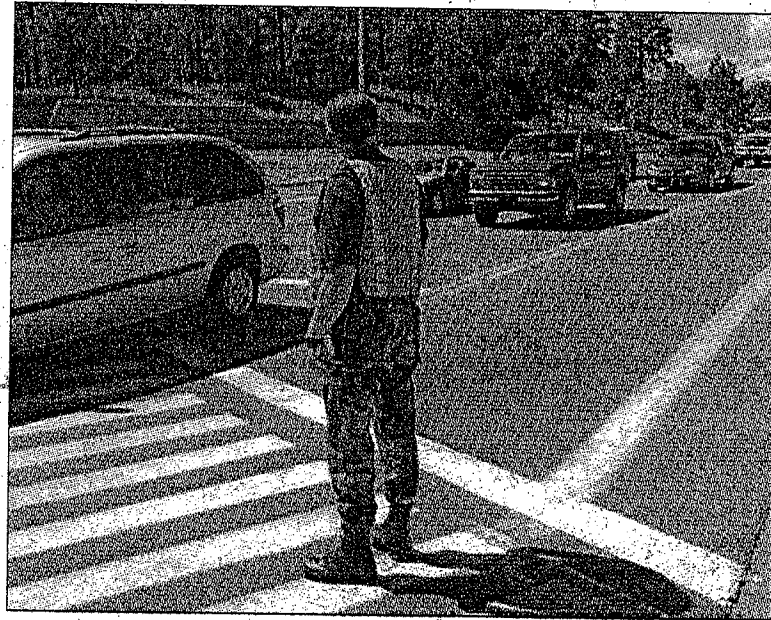
Los Alamos National Laboratory had about 20 kilograms of plutonium stored in an unprotected area until late August, which critics say should make New Mexicans worry about a terrorist attack on the lab similar to those in New York and Washington on Tuesday.

Workers at Los Alamos National Laboratory were evacuated Tuesday in case the terrorist attacks spread west to the nation's nuclear-weapons complex.

However, LANL officials said "absolutely no threats whatsoever" were made against the lab. Dick Burick, chief of security at LANL, said the energy secretary sent all energy-department employees home about 11 a.m.

However, Burick said, if someone had targeted LANL — and the many kilograms of radioactive material throughout the laboratory — in the same manner as the Pentagon, "that would have been very difficult to stop."

Please see **LANL**, Page A-3



A Los Alamos National Laboratory police officer directs traffic on Pajarito Road on Tuesday after the lab shut down in the wake of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Craig Fritz
The New Mexican

LANL

Continued from Page A-1

"There's nothing we could have done to prevent that," Burick said. "Any facility in America is vulnerable to that kind of attack."

And some LANL watchdogs say the lab should do more to guard against terrorist attack because the facility is guarding such dangerous materials.

"Much of the lab is vulnerable to terrorist attack," said Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group. Also, lab critics say, LANL seems too casual in protecting its most volatile materials.

In late August, LANL was criticized by the Department of Energy and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for storing large quantities of plutonium waste outside a building known as PF-185 at the heart of the lab. The drums stored outside next to a building in a secure area — waiting for transport to the lab's nuclear dump — contained up to 20 kilograms of plutonium, according to the DOE. That amount is enough to build several

bombs.

A note dated Aug. 24 from Charles Keilers, a representative of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board, says the building provided no protection for the plutonium waste in terms of "high wind, missile or seismic" activity.

If a jet had flown into a stack of such waste and created a big enough explosion, Mello said, "you could have a plume (of radiation) going across New Mexico in a short time."

"If it were just a plane crash, it might not (reach beyond Los Alamos)," he said.

At the request of DOE and the nuclear-safety board, LANL moved those drums of plutonium waste in late August. DOE is investigating how long the drums of plutonium waste had been at the site.

But Burick said the lab's most volatile materials are well protected from fire and attack.

"These are very hardened facilities," he said. "It would take a large aircraft to do significant damage."

Lab officials generally believe there are other military targets — such as the Pentagon — that would be more attractive to terrorists.

However, Burick said, it would depend on what the terrorists were hoping to prove.

"The lab could be (an attractive target)," he said. "But that wasn't the focus today. I don't think Los Alamos would be ranked with the symbolism of the Pentagon, not in today's world."

Mello agreed, but noted that terrorists might take note that Los Alamos is the birthplace of the atomic bomb.

"It would depend on the symbolism chosen by the terrorist," he said. "Most shows of force are done through conventional (non-nuclear) means. But if terrorists sought to highlight the United States' duplicity and hypocrisy in terms of (nuclear) weapons, Los Alamos is a likely target."

Burick said the lab will probably reopen today.

Date--09/13/2001 Edition--Final Page--A11

Forum Opportunity To Reflect Aloud

Journal Staff and Wire Reports

U.S. ATTACKED N.M. RESPONDS

AT A GLANCE

A local forum today will provide a place for people to speak about Tuesday's events.

The forum is being organized by the Los Alamos Study Group, a nonprofit disarmament research and education organization.

The discussion "Security in the Wake of Violence: Where Do We Go From Here?" aims to provide a place for residents to express concerns about international and domestic security issues and civil liberties, according to a news release.

"We want to try and uncover a wider perspective in the discussions," he says.

The forum will be at 7 tonight at the University of New Mexico Continuing Education Conference Center in Room C. UNM Continuing Education is at 1634 University.

For more information about the forum, call 982-7747.

Forum to cover war alternatives

By Andrew Webb

A New Mexico military industry watchdog group is sponsoring a forum tonight at the UNM Continuing Education Center on national security and retaliation in the aftermath of this week's terrorist attacks.

The Los Alamos Research Group is sponsoring the forum, part of a three-city series Wednesday through Friday. Group spokesman Blake Trask said the organization contacted potential speakers from UNM, local churches and government officials, but as of Wednesday, he wasn't yet sure who would participate in the forum, which will be open to the public.

"We're hoping to provide a counterbalance to press coverage," Blake said. "We're trying, at least at a local level, to provide for community discussion of the national media response."

He said one of the main topics of the meeting is finding alternatives to what he called an outright war in retribution for the hijacking of four airliners and subsequent crashes into the World Trade Center and Pentagon. According to a press release, the forum, "Security in the Wake of Violence: Where Do We Go From Here?" will explore the possible consequences of reprisal, as well as potential effects to civil liberty resulting from increased national security measures.

"We feel this really needs to be answered with alternative analysis, rather than a rash attack," he said.

He said he expects between five and seven speakers will respond to audience members' questions asked by a mediator. After some discussion, participants may divide into groups and work with individual speakers to brainstorm security and retaliation options.

UNM law professor Tim Canova said he will be one of the speakers at tonight's forum. Canova lectures on international trade and business, and has published articles on international monetary law, he said.

He wasn't exactly sure why he was invited, but said, "Certainly there are a lot of economic causes to competition and hostility in the world today."

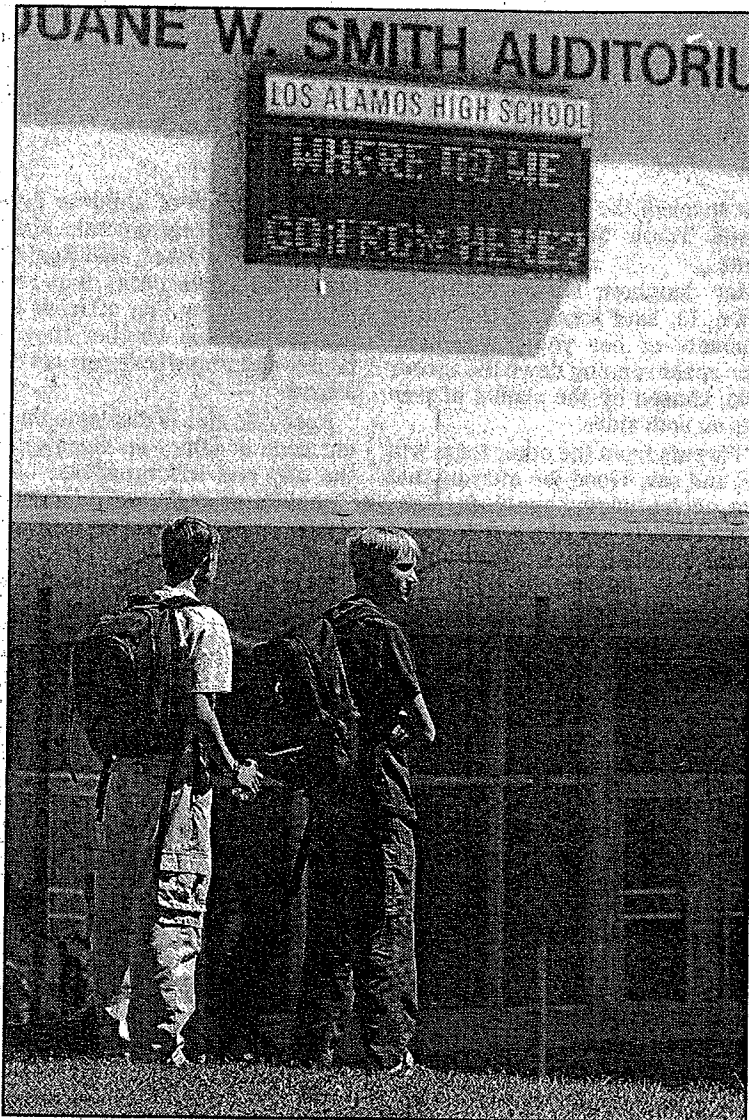
Canova said the Los Alamos Research Group also contacted another law professor who is a former member of the American Civil Liberties Union, as well as a local rabbi. He said he expects much of the discussion to focus on potential changes to civil liberty as new security measures are enacted in the coming days and months, as well as retaliation.

The forum is at 7 p.m. in Room C of the Continuing Education Building, at 1634 University Blvd. NE. For more information, call the Los Alamos Research Group at (505) 982-7747.

9/12/01 Mangrove advertising

Study Group Forum 9/14/01

NO SCHOOL IN LOS ALAMOS



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

Bill Johnson, 18, left, and his brother Peter Johnson, 14, wait outside Los Alamos High School on Tuesday morning. School was dismissed in Los Alamos because of security concerns following terrorist attacks on the East Coast.

Paper: New Mexican, The (Santa Fe, NM)

Title: Prayer and religious events:

Author: The New Mexican

Date: September 14, 2001

Section: Main

The Santa Fe Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends will hold a special worship meeting at 6 p.m. tonight at the Meeting House, 630 Canyon Road. Interfaith Meditation and a Prayer Vigil for Peace will continue daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in front of the Main Santa Fe Post Office on South Federal Place through Saturday. The event is sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, the Lorreto Community, the **Los Alamos Study Group**, the Nevada Desert Experience and the Upaya Zen Center.

The United Church of Santa Fe, 1804 Arroyo Chamiso, will hold three services today in observance of the national day of prayer and mourning. An early morning service will begin at 7 a.m. Additional prayer time will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. An after-work service will start at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 988-3295.

Gov. Gary Johnson and state lawmakers will co-host a service of prayer and remembrance with the Santa Fe Ministerial Alliance, noon, at the state Capitol rotunda.

Author: The New Mexican

Section: Main

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Paper: New Mexican, The (Santa Fe, NM)
Title: Prayer and Remembrance
Author: WENDY WALSH, photo by Katharine Kimball
Date: September 15, 2001
Section: Main

Santa Feans gather to pray for peace. Maria Hayter, 89, was not listed as a speaker on the neatly printed fliers distributed among the more than 400 people who attended New Mexico's prayer service at the state Capitol Rotunda at noon Friday.

Well under 5 feet tall and cutting a figure reminiscent of Mother Teresa, Hayter patiently waited for her turn to speak anyway. When she did, at the end of the service, her words commanded attention.

“Why do they have to come and destroy our country? What do they want? The freedom that we have in the United States of America?” Hayter asked the crowd. “There's only one God almighty that has to protect us from that evil.”

Many audience members who had withstood bagpipes, prayers and moving speeches for more than an hour were moved to tears at Hayter's speech concerning the terrorist attacks on the East Coast, but they were also moved to applause, cheers and hollers by the end.

“I'm not giving up my country to nobody,” Hayter emphatically said to a cheering crowd.

In response to President Bush's request for a national day of prayer and remembrance for the victims of Tuesday's terrorism, prayer services were held all across the city Friday. Inclusion was the uniting theme, and civic and religious leaders stressed that everyone was welcome.

“We need to stand as one in prayer and remembrance,” Gov. Gary Johnson told the audience, adding that the religious freedom the United States is based on includes everyone -- especially Arab and Muslim Americans.

Religious leaders from 10 faiths spoke at the Rotunda, as did four New Mexico legislators, including Speaker of the House Ben Lujan, a Nambe Democrat.

“It's difficult to find the words, and it's difficult to understand the emotions we're all feeling inside,” Lujan said.

The Rev. Michael Shea of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church asked participants to hold hands as he recited the Prayer of St. Francis. Many of them, who had it memorized, whispered the words softly as he spoke.

By no means, however, was the prayer service at the Rotunda the only one in town. A number of churches, including the First Baptist Church of Santa Fe, The United Church of Santa Fe and St. Francis Cathedral, also held prayer services at noon.

“We're all praying to the same God for the same reasons,” said Bill Kollasch, 57, who attended the prayer service at St. Francis Cathedral. “We're praying for peace, reason and unity before one God.”

The service at the cathedral was organized at the last minute but still drew between 300 and 400 people, Kollasch said.

“Some of them were going to come anyway,” he said.

People continued a prayer vigil next to the main U.S. Post Office on South Federal Place in Santa Fe. The vigil is expected to continue through today.

“We have Christians sitting with us. We've had Jews sitting with us. And we would like Muslims to join us,” said Sarah Laeng-Gilliett, an organizer of the Interfaith Meditation and Prayer for Peace sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the **Los Alamos Study Group**, among others.

People on cushions practiced metta -- a form of meditation that requires the participant to bring up loving and kind thoughts for people in concentric circles, starting with himself, Laeng-Gilliett said.

Eventually, the circle includes the perpetrators of Tuesday's violence, Laeng-Gilliett said.

A nondenominational candlelight vigil is planned for 7:30 p.m. Sunday on the Plaza, and everyone in Santa Fe is welcome, said Steve Potter, 42, an organizer of the event.

“Bring a candle and an open heart,” he said.

Author: WENDY WALSH, photo by Katharine Kimball
Section: Main

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Peace vigil told to move off post office property

2/15/01

By **WENDY WALSH**
The New Mexican

Members of local peace organizations seeking permission to continue a prayer vigil on the front lawn of the main U.S. post office in downtown Santa Fe contacted the American Civil Liberties Union after they were denied a permit by the federal government Friday.

Sarah Laeng-Gilliett, an organizer of the Interfaith Meditation and Prayer Vigil for Peace, said she arrived Friday morning and set up on the front lawn of the post office as she had since Thursday, but was told by a security guard she needed a permit.

The vigil was in response to terrorist attacks on the East Coast on Tuesday.

The prayer vigil was sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship and the Los Alamo Study Group, among

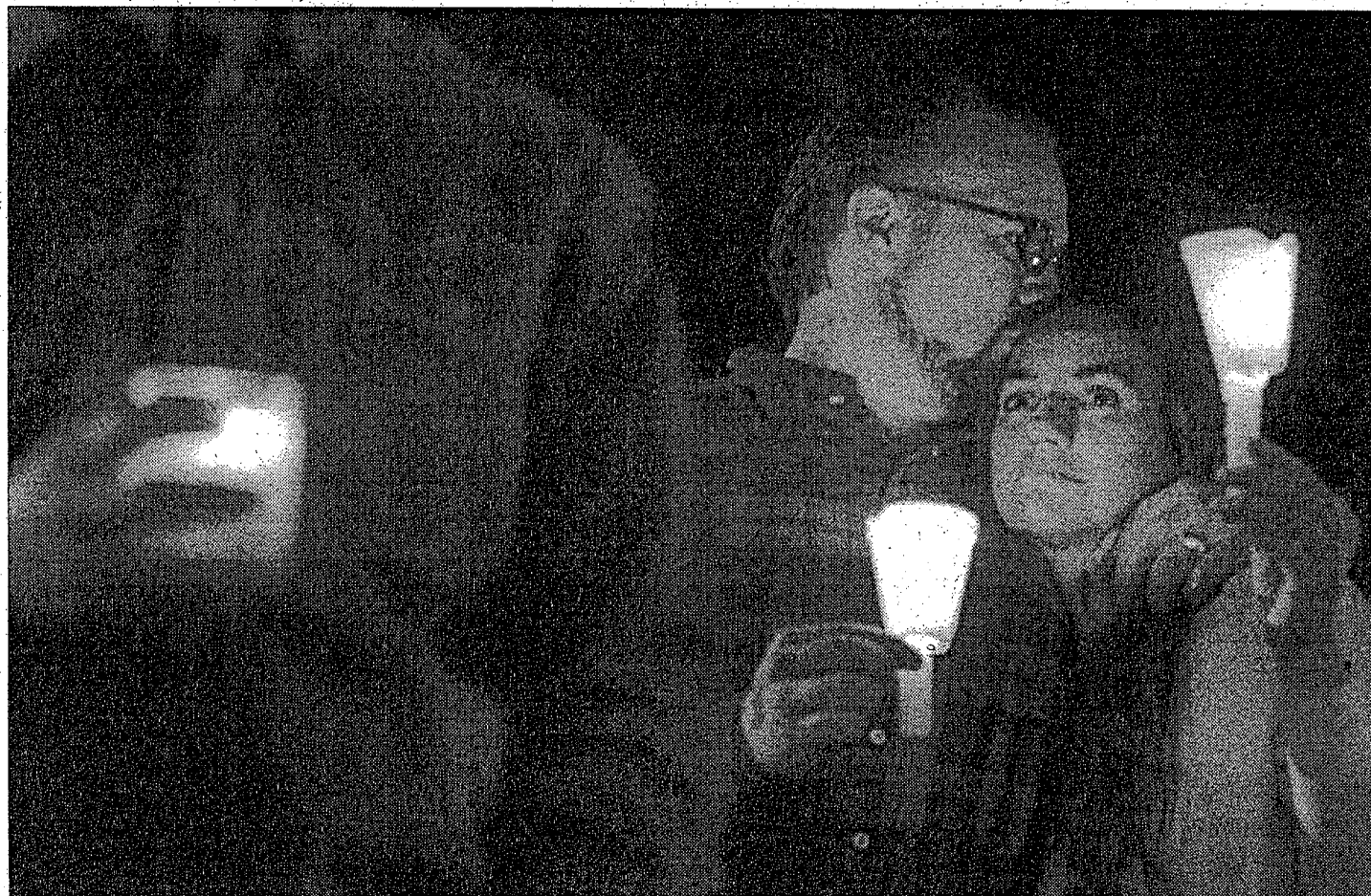
others, and was expected to continue through Saturday.

The prayer vigil moved to a city-owned lawn beside the post office while the permit was being reviewed, Laeng-Gilliett said. At about 1:30 p.m., Laeng-Gilliett was informed the permit had been denied for security reasons.

"We think this is unconstitutional and violates the First Amendment," Laeng-Gilliett said.

Mitch Buszek, an ACLU board member, said the ACLU intends to take up the issue at their 1 p.m. meeting today at the offices of lawyer Jeff Jones.

Jill Joseph, 46, of Santa Fe stood with Laeng-Gilliett Friday afternoon and collected signatures on a petition urging the U.S. government not to take violent action against Tuesday's terrorists. The petition also asks the government to strengthen civil liberties, not abridge them.



Photos by Julie Graber/The New Mexican

Daniel Piburn embraces his wife, Giselle, as they joined about 40 people at a candlelight vigil organized by the Los Alamos Study Group on Tuesday evening. The vigil, in front of the New Mexico State Capitol, was a response to the terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C..

Group Denied Fed Property Access

Heightened Security Cited for Decision

BY WREN PROPP
Journal Staff Writer

7/15/01

A group of praying Buddhists and Christians were tossed off the shady lawn of the federal building in downtown Santa Fe on Friday.

The ecumenical group had received a permit to use the lawn on Thursday, but the property manager for the Albuquerque District of the General Service Administration denied a permit for Friday and Saturday.

The group's size, its signs and fliers and heightened security requirements following Tuesday's attacks on the East Coast led to his decision to deny the permit, said the GSA's Larry McGowan.

Sarah Laeng-Gilliatt of Tesuque said Friday the group would continue to meet and pray on nearby city property near Grant Street today. The group has a permit



PERMIT CONFUSION: Barbara Lopez, right, of Santa Fe Parks and Recreation Department, delivers a permit to Jill Joseph, center, Dan Kokes, left, and other members of a meditation group outside the Santa Fe main post office on Friday.

EDDIE MOORE
JOURNAL

from the city.

She's disappointed in McGowan's decision for use of the space in front of the federal building, which includes Santa Fe's main post office.

"I thought it was public property ... I understand security needs, but how can an ecumenical meet-

ing like this be considered threatening?" Laeng-Gilliatt asked.

Friday afternoon, about eight members of the group were seated in a circle on a large tarp reading aloud from a book on a Tibetan ceremony for the dead.

The board for Northern New

See **PRAYER** on **PAGE 3**

Prayer Group Denied Access

from PAGE 1

Mexico American Civil Liberties Union plans to discuss the denial of the permit at its meeting today, said board member Mitch Buszek, who talked to members of the group on Friday afternoon.

"They should be able to use public property," Buszek said.

The group is praying over the deadly terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. They also oppose any violent retaliation for the attacks.

Members of the group Friday were passing out fliers listing seven purposes for their prayer and meditation. They also leaned signs against trees in the city-owned, grassy median between Grant Street and the federal property stating that hatred is not the answer.

Their signs on Thursday said "reconciliation not retaliation" and "contemplative presence in grief."

McGowan said Friday he had received complaints about the signs on Thursday from workers in the federal building.

"The signs, according to what we had understood, were reflecting political views," McGowan said.

None of the activities are forbidden on federal property, McGowan said, but the group was larger and more active on Thursday than he had been led to

"The (prayer group's) signs, according to what we had understood, were reflecting political views."

LARRY MCGOWAN, PROPERTY MANAGER

believe.

He heard reports there were 24 people at one time during Thursday's meeting of the group.

Laeng-Gilliatt's husband, Stefan Laeng-Gilliatt, said there were about 18 people coming and going at the event on Thursday.

An application he received from the group on Friday morning, to enable them to return to the property that day and today, described more activity and more people than he thought a heightened level of security at federal buildings could allow.

"It was a group of things, it wasn't just one thing," he said.

McGowan said he is not discriminating against the group because of their message.

"If this was any group" with the same numbers and the same activities, his response would have been the same, he said. Any group usually receives a one-day permit and all groups using federal property must have a permit, he said.

The original request for a permit said six people would be in meditation and prayer; the second request for a permit stated two to ten participants would be sitting and walking around, with cere-

monies and discussion, McGowan said.

Sarah Laeng-Gilliatt said the group was willing to hand out fliers only at the sidewalk — not on the federal property itself — but Buszek said the group should be allowed to distribute fliers anywhere on the property.

No one complained to the group about the signs or fliers on Thursday, she said.

Buszek said he also plans to complain to Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., who represents Santa Fe in the 3rd Congressional District, about the denial of the permit.

The group also is circulating a petition from the Los Alamos Study Group, extending sympathy to the victims of the attacks and calling for restraint while bringing those behind the attacks to justice.

"We must bring the guilty to justice, but we cannot kill innocent men, women and children," the petition states.

The petition calls for the protection of constitutional rights of Americans, especially those of Arab-Americans.

The group plans to return to its activity on the city-owned Grant Street site at 9 a.m. today.

(Our response must be deliberate, just and humane)

AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

We, the undersigned, extend our deepest sympathy to the victims of last week's terrorist attacks. We call on our elected leaders to respond with the utmost wisdom—and restraint—to these acts. We must bring the guilty to justice, but we cannot kill innocent men, women, and children. To do so would betray our deepest values. Such a course of action could very easily draw us into a spiral of violence that would truly destroy our security, undercut our humanity, and damage our democracy far more than could any terrorist act. To lure us into a vengeful response may well have been a goal of the attackers. We must resist this temptation. No terrorist attack from the outside, however severe, can destroy America. Only a betrayal of our core values could do so. For this reason we must also be especially careful to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans—especially Arab-Americans, who are now vulnerable to unwarranted accusation, discrimination or worse. We need to strengthen civil liberties, not abridge them. If we wish to be a truly great democracy, secure from fear, we must have the courage to lead the world in the paths of justice, not those of violence.

Shelley Buonaiuto
Ann Dasburg
Forest Guardians
Green Party of Santa Fe
Los Alamos Study Group
Santa Fe Stone
Southwest Energy Institute
Wild Angels

(The above are major contributors to this ad)

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Dear Representative Udall
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

We grieve deeply with the victims of this week's tragic crimes. We must bring the guilty to justice, but under no circumstances should we ever kill innocent children, women, or men. To do so would betray our deepest values. It would also be a criminal act, and would be widely perceived as such. Any action taken by the United States must comply fully with applicable international laws, which protect the innocent in conflict.

Very sincerely,

Clip, sign and mail this letter to
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Bingaman
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Clip, sign and mail this letter to
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Domenici
U. S. Senate
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U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

For more information to sign the petition or to help pay for this ad, please contact:
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INSIGHT & OPINION

alysis, commentary and ideas

EDITOR: JACK EHN 823-3616, jehn@abqtrib.com. ASSISTANT EDITOR: LAWRI

Living WITHOUT the LABS

Today's writer, a former Los Alamos scientist who recently quit his job at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory on principle, is urging other scientists to do the same. But quitting is tough, and scientists who do so need an organization to support them, he says. Here's his pitch.

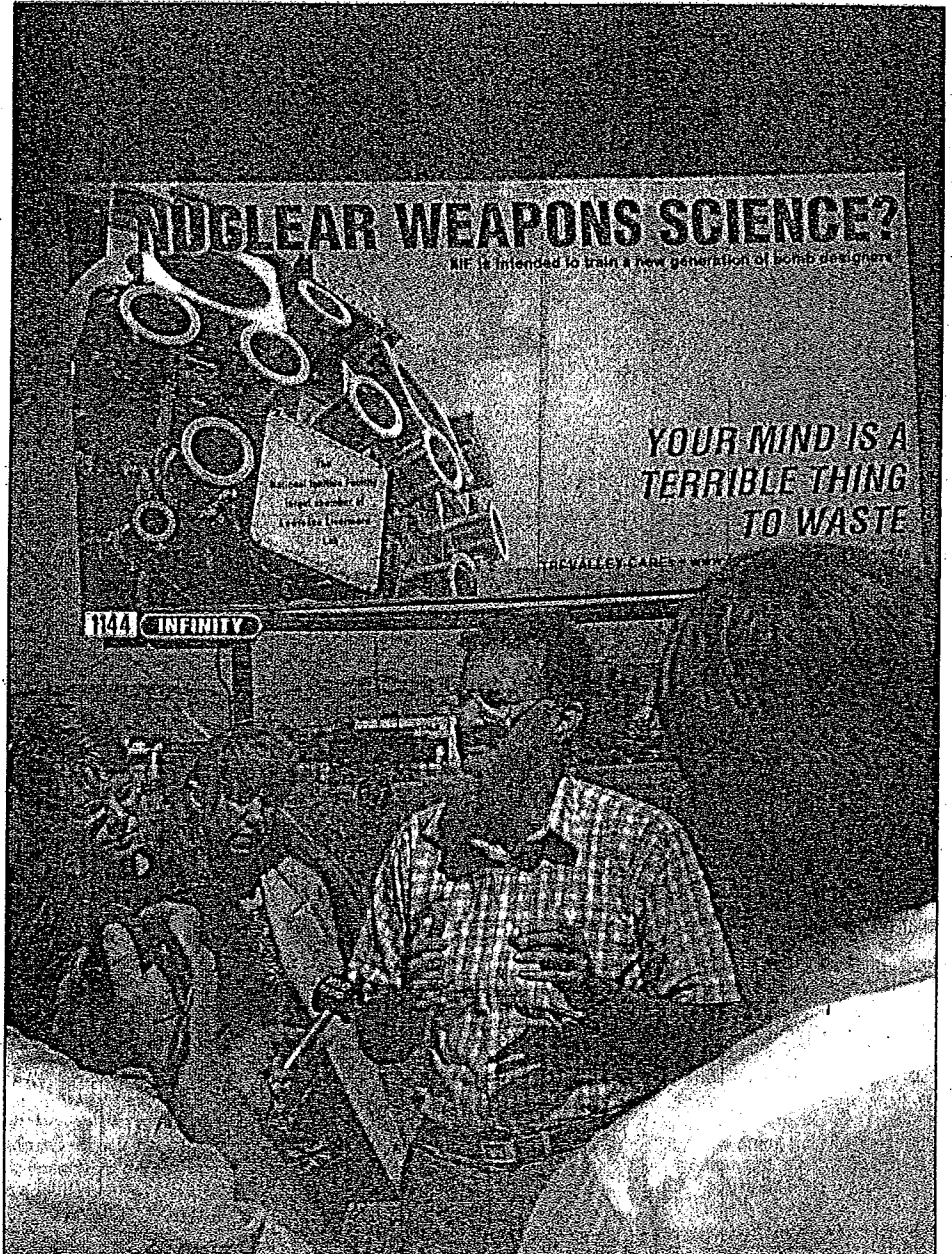
By Andreas Toupadakis

Despite the fact that we live in a world of increasing violence in every walk of life, humans still have not lost hope; they talk about peace as they have done since the beginning of time.

Some advocate peace by preparing for war; others advocate peace by preparing for peace.

I thought I could do peaceful work inside this nation's nuclear weapons labs, but I learned I was wrong; so, I resigned, and now I urge others to do the same.

If scientists stop developing the instruments of mass destruction, the government will be powerless to continue developing them.



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If scientists stop developing the instruments of mass destruction, the government will be powerless to continue developing them.

There are thousands upon thousands of reconciliations taking place among people everyday around the world, but the mainstream media never talk about them. Instead they talk about violence and its results.

Whether we like it or not, we cannot deny the fact that the magnitude of death and sorrow from a violent act is proportional to the degree of technological sophistication employed in the act: Wars with spears in the past cannot compare with the electronic, atomic wars of today. In past wars, mostly soldiers would die, but today mostly civilians die. The technology separates and dehumanizes us from the actual act of killing.

In the past, a soldier could see the expression on the face of his opponent as he died. Today, however, thousands of people can be vaporized instantly, while others can languish in pain for years, and future generations can be affected. But the person who launched the initial weapon will have seen nothing of this but possibly some words on a computer screen.

Scientists and engineers have always served society for the good, but we can not deny that scientists and engineers have also played the greatest role in violence committed against life, and this is true throughout history.

TODAY'S BYLINE
Toupadakis, a former executive of General Electric, has resigned from the U.S. State Dept. and worked at two major nuclear labs. He most recently worked at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California and before that at Los Alamos National Laboratory in northern New Mexico. He resigned from Livermore on Jan. 31, 2000. A matter of conscience, he charged in a media critique, are the "electronic weapons" he lectured on at many universities and colleges.

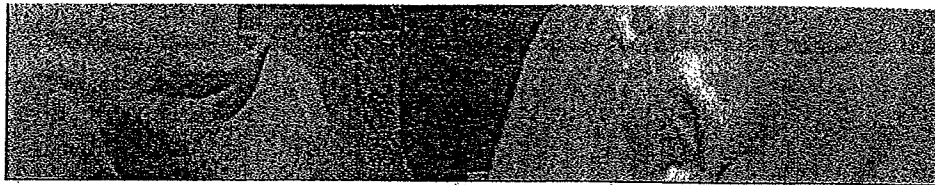
It was science and technology that contributed to the human tragedy of the past two world wars. It is science and technology that has prepared such an unthinkable war machine today, which, if used, will abolish it all. Scientists have penetrated the microcosm and the macrocosm to a great degree, but they have failed to penetrate the self.

These days, more than ever, the scientists and engineers working at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories and at California's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — and at all other Department of Energy research and manufacturing centers for weapons of mass destruction — are being called upon to re-evaluate their positions and beliefs.

Nuclear weaponeers

The natures and roles of these laboratories is well hidden behind the names of the operators: the University of California and Lockheed Martin. The labs also hide their true natures behind an insignificantly small number of non-weapons research programs that are heavily promoted.

Almost everyone in these laboratories tries to put such



Andreas Toupadakis (center) makes a point to reporters last month at a press conference in Livermore, Calif., while unveiling an anti-nuclear group's billboard. The billboard urges scientists at nearby Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to abandon their nuclear weapons work — as has Toupadakis, who resigned his Livermore Lab chemist's position last year.

Lawrence Spohn/Tribune

facts in a dark corner of their consciences, as denial is the only way to live comfortably with this knowledge.

These laboratories have prepared and still are developing more nuclear weapons of indiscriminate death and suffering to all life. These weapons are so catastrophically potent that the only name appropriate for them should be "satanic weapons."

I ask the scientists working on them to lift up their eyes from their books and take their hands away from their computers for awhile and look at the big picture — the big picture which most of them ignore.

The fact is that they work for a government that increasingly has isolated itself from the rest of the world, through a foreign policy that is despised by many other nations and that is destabilizing the world. It is a policy that aims to accomplish world domination, even if it is necessary to use weapons of mass destruction to achieve this goal.

We comfortably judge Hitler and his army of scientists and engineers who brought blood and tragedy to the world, but we feel uncomfortable in judging our own leaders and scientists. Yet a miscalculation today by them would be the end of civilization, and, deep down, we know that.

A selfish foreign policy

Let us look at some of the U.S. government's recent actions for which no American citizen, and especially scientist, can be proud of:

■ The United States has rejected the Kyoto Protocol to start reducing the carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel burning that are responsible for global warming. On July 23, with the United States holding out, 178 countries negotiated rules for implementing the hallmark global greenhouse treaty within a United Nations framework to combat Climate Change. The United States meanwhile objected to the treaty's possible impact on its economy and judged it "fatally flawed." Yet other nations hailed this agreement as "a major breakthrough."

■ The United States has rejected the germ-warfare accord, putting the entire agreement in peril. Negotiations had been ongoing for almost seven years to find a way to ban biological weapons, but the United States sent the effort into a tailspin because of "long-standing concerns." The U.S. position has put the fate of future talks in doubt.

■ The United States has rejected the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which it and its NATO partners had helped negotiate, to ban all nuclear test explosions and thereby prevent the development of new nuclear weapon types. Despite the rejection, NATO allies

are urging the United States to continue to provide its share of financial support for the treaty's International Monitoring System, which is vital to U.S. national test-monitoring goals, as well. However, the Bush administration continues to project a negative position: It will not seek Senate approval for U.S. ratification in its current session and, at the same time, wants the Nevada Nuclear Test Site readiness pushed up. Yet officially, "It does not see any need for a resumption of test explosions in the foreseeable future."

■ Various government documents show that the United States plans to control the world militarily by 2020, specifically through the domination of space. War planners anticipate "conflict involving employment of strategic forces and weapons of mass destruction, major theatre wars, regional conflicts and smaller-scale contingencies." U.S. military documents predict that "we will win — but we should not expect war in the future to be either easy or bloodless"

■ U.S. policy aims to deceive the world, its adversaries and allies alike, as well as its own citizens. In his commentary titled, "Media are sadly misguided in missile-defense tests," in the Aug. 26 issue of The New York Times, Thomas A. Halsted writes: "For years, the Pentagon and its Ballistic Missile Defense Organization have engaged in a continuing effort to delude the public and Congress into believing the United States is well on its way to developing a workable defense against ballistic missiles." He asks, "Who benefits from such a deception?" And he lists the missile-defense system's principal contractors: Boeing Co., Raytheon Corp., TRW Inc. and Lockheed Martin Corp.

But scientists are the pillars for this deception, and MIT scientist-professor Ted Postol spoke about this fraud on CBS News' "60 Minutes II" in an interview a year ago, saying: "When I talk fraud, I'm being careful about the use of the word. I'm not saying there are people who have made a mistake, and I disagree with them. ... I'm saying that there are people who know that this system will not work and are trying to cover it up. That's what I'm saying here. So I am making a serious charge; I know that."

The scientist-government deal

In all of these policies, the U.S. government derives power directly from science. It is the scientists and engineers who make it possible for the government to act with such arrogance. Therefore, scientists could and should influence the government against these destabilizing policy choices, if not for the rest of the world,

Please see LABS/D2

then for this country's own sake.

Let us not forget Einstein's words for Americans, which are still valid today. Speaking on his first impressions of the United States in 1921, the famous scientist described a state of affairs that is identical or perhaps even worse today. He said in a news interview for Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant: "The United States is the most powerful among the technically advanced countries in the world today. Its influence on the shaping of international relations is absolutely incalculable. But America is a large country, and its people have so far not shown much interest in great international problems, among which the problem of disarmament occupies first place today.

"This must be changed, if only in America's own interest. The last war has shown that there are no longer any barriers between the continents and that the destinies of all countries are closely interwoven. The people of this country must realize that they have a great responsibility in the sphere of international politics. The part of passive spectator is unworthy of this country and is bound in the end to lead to disaster all round."

Such is the case for nuclear weapons, because the American public has been totally and deliberately excluded from policy decisions, which are vital if we are to change.

Einstein said in 1947 that "unless Americans come to realize that they are not stronger in the world because they have the bomb but weaker because of their vulnerability to atomic attack, they are not likely to conduct their policy at the United Nations or in their relations with Russia in a spirit that furthers the arrival at an understanding."

His words on Feb. 16, 1931, at the California Institute of Technology still echo true today: "If you want your life's work to be useful to mankind, it is not enough that you understand applied science as such. Concern for man himself must always constitute the chief objective of all technological effort, in such a manner as to assure that the results of our scientific thinking may be a blessing to mankind, and not a curse. Never forget this when you are pondering over your diagrams and equations."

A way out

Judging from my own experience at two U.S. laboratories of weapons of mass destruction, I know that many scientists desire to leave these places of war science. However, they have been trapped by the attractive high salaries and benefits.

We Americans are paying high salaries to scientists and engineers to do what? To prepare for the death, even by mistake, of our whole planet. Now our government is taking away our taxes to put these weapons in space.

Therefore, here is a proposal to help scientists extricate themselves from this dilemma. I call it the "Help Scientists and Engineers for Peace Fund." It would provide money, here and around the world, to help scientists and engineers give up war science for worthwhile civilian research.

There are thousands of environmental and peace organizations around the world that can help make this happen. With the contribution of an insignificant amount from each of their members and funding foundations, a fund of millions of dollars could be created to help scientists and engineers of conscience abandon the weapons work.

It is interesting to note that Einstein, in 1930, spoke on behalf of war resisters and said: "I suggest that pacifists of all countries start raising funds to support those who would want to refuse military service but who cannot actually do so for lack of financial means. I, therefore, advocate the establishment of an international organization and an international pacifist fund to support

TAP IN

You can be reached at toubadakis@home.com. To learn more about his views go to the following Internet sites:
<http://www.globalcomment.com/articles/chronicillness/abstract/resignation.htm>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/abolitionofnukes/message/6295> Other sites that deal with this subject include:
■ <http://www.ecn.org/abstracts.pdf>
■ <http://www.greenpeace.org/features/kyotomotox.htm>
■ <http://www.dic.nyu.edu/2000/>
■ <http://www.itsfound.org/Enet/FSD.htm>
■ <http://www.pbaa.comont.com/>
■ <http://www.nissward.org/Enet/chemsystem.htm>
■ <http://www.dic.nyu.edu/2000/>
To contact me, please write letters to: Dr. George Toubadakis, 10000 E. 1st Ave., Suite 100, Denver, CO 80231. E-mail: toubadakis@home.com

the active war resisters of our day."

He did not only suggest this idea for war resisters, but also for German scientists, to help them leave Germany so that they would not serve in Hitler's military preparations.

With the end of the Cold War, the time has arrived for such a fund to support scientists and engineers in disengaging themselves from war research and development.

We are running out of time. The atomic clock is always near midnight.

Organizations, such as the following, have advocated peace since their creation and have the resources and other capabilities to organize such a fund. They include:

- Los Alamos Study Group at <http://www.lasg.org/hmpgfrm—a.html>
- Nuclear Watch of New Mexico at <http://www.nukewatch.org/index.html>
- Western States Legal Foundation at <http://www.wslfweb.org/index.htm>
- Abolition 2000: A Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons at <http://www.abolition2000.org/index.html>
- Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs at <http://www.pugwash.org/>
- International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility at <http://www.inesglobal.org/>
- Physicians for Social Responsibility at <http://www.psr.org/>
- Union of Concerned Scientists at <http://www.ucsusa.org/index.html>
- Tri-Valley CARE (Communities Against a Radioactive Environment) at <http://www.igc.org/tvc/>

Scientists at Los Alamos and the other nuclear weapons labs should be motivated to reconsider the culture of their own workplace, given the extraordinarily ill treatment and astonishing release from a nine-month jail confinement of former Los Alamos Lab physicist Dr. Wen Ho Lee. The same can be said in regard to the proposed polygraphy testing and its disturbing history since it was proposed.

Humanity's hope is that the scientists and engineers will be motivated by such a fund to take the courageous, principled path and to work on behalf of something they feel is meaningful, something that they believe in.

A hard path out

On the other hand, I feel morally and ethically bound to reveal to my weapons labs colleagues the risks inherent in following their conscience.

Many of these scientists did not have full and complete knowledge of the future use and results of their research on humanity and Earth at the time that were they were hired. It is appropriate that they have knowledge of the risks involved and make an informed decision before they take the principled path out of the labs.

Depending on their personal circumstances and their future plans, their economic security could be fleeting. It is possible that the scientist who will stand apart from the crowd could be abandoned and even attacked by friends and foes.

Scientists must examine their con-

sciences, and only if the inner voice assures that they have the required strength to carry them through should they break away from war science, then and only then will their action bear fruit.

On Jan. 31 of 2000, I resigned from my permanent, highly paid, classified position at Livermore.

I went to Livermore believing that I would be useful in helping to dismantle nuclear weapons and in disposing of their deadly byproducts. That was my desire and intent.

Instead, I found myself expected to work on the maintenance of nuclear weapons as part of the Stockpile Stewardship program. I had not been informed properly about the nature of my future work because of security reasons.

When I realized that within the lab, environmental or non-proliferation work are illusions, I decided to resign. My conscience simply did not allow me to work for the development or maintenance of nuclear weapons. I believe that if a foundation or institution is corrupt, you must wash your hands and withdraw from it.

But to do so is not an easy matter. We all know deep in our hearts that the path we were meant to travel is the one that supports us not just financially but also, most importantly, emotionally.

It has not been easy for my family and myself since my resignation. Circumstances have led us to virtually give away our house because of the present bad housing market and move to a different, less expensive city. If we do not do this, we will not be able to make mortgage payments.

This is not easy on the social lives of my children, who will be changing schools and friends. By having part-time jobs or no jobs, we have been without medical insurance, and our income is far less than that needed to make ends meet. One of our cars has just given out and is not worth repairing; yet we cannot replace it at present. We hope our other one will hold out until circumstances improve.

So, would I choose to do it again? Yes, I would. But, clearly, I could have used help.

The response of peace-seeking associations to the distresses of the future "break-away" scientists will be an indication of whether they have a true desire to keep the peace message alive and to supply the logistical support necessary to promote it.

I believe it is the hope of most people of the Earth that scientists and engineers will be motivated to abandon their war-enabling ways before a world tragedy strikes.

We need to publicize and hold as role models future scientists who will renounce weapons work. Students at all levels of education should know about them. Let us start glorifying peace instead of war, to give a chance to our children to live their lives in peace and harmony.

They do not deserve what we have prepared for them. Being ten minutes away from a universal catastrophe at any given moment, we have an obligation not just to abolish weapons of mass destruction but also to abolish war as a national policy.

Paper: Albuquerque Tribune, The (NM)
Title: For peace activist, militancy is a poor excuse for patriotism
Author: Kate Nelson
Date: September 18, 2001
Page: A4

TERROR STRIKES AMERICA She is nearly 80 years old, proud of her country, horrified by the attack upon its citizens.

But Dorelen Bunting isn't waving a flag, humming the national anthem or pumping her fist in celebration of a coming war.

She's working for peace.

"We don't think mass bombing of civilians is going to be productive," said Bunting, a founder of the Peace and Justice Center. "And we think that bombing a country of refuge (for a suspected terrorist) would create more antagonism and more hostility."

Her quavering voice and measured speech, however, cannot stretch from Albuquerque to Washington, D.C. In the nation's capital Monday, President Bush vowed to get terrorist Osama bin Laden "dead or alive," even if more Americans lose their lives in the process.

"I want justice," Bush said.

Bunting wants justice, too. But she worries that militancy is a poor excuse for patriotism and that violence in the name of America could backfire on Americans.

"I don't object to people expressing their patriotism," she said of the U.S. flags that suddenly adorn houses, businesses, construction cranes and car antennas. "That's a source of solace to people. "But it's dangerous in one respect. Over our history, we've always been willing to jump in and take on an enemy without much thought. It's simplistic thinking."

It won't be simple to take out bin Laden or all the other terrorists who have targeted America as the enemy. Bush and his advisers speak of a lengthy ground war on ground that we do not know, against a foe whom we do not understand. And yet to demand anything less sounds hollow and weak.

Ordinary people strapped into airplane seats were turned into human missiles, wiping out thousands of other innocent civilians. The horror of cleaning up the carnage has consumed the spirits of rescue workers and those of us left behind.

Friends and relatives still wander the streets with photocopies of their loved ones' pictures. Have you seen him? Is she alive? He was my one true love. She was my everything.

How can we not demand reparations? How can we not ensure that the villains who plotted against us never again get such a chance?

"If we have a global economy," Bunting said, "then we have to think globally. We can't just think, 'Our country, right or wrong.' We have to be a world community.

"And it's much harder to build peace through world community. It takes a lot of diplomatic skill and ongoing work."

Bunting has pursued that goal for decades. In the 1960s, she opposed America's involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1983, she helped found the Peace and Justice Center.

The front door of its small University Area headquarters is freckled with announcements of rallies, with petitions that call for restraint and with this handwritten poster: "Violence is wrong, no matter who commits it."

The petitions, prepared by the **Los Alamos Study Group** and intended for our congressional delegation, warn that killing innocent people in another country "would betray our deepest values."

"To lure us into a vengeful response may well have been a goal of the attackers," it says. "We must resist this temptation."

There are those who would call that stance unpatriotic, anti-American.

Bunting has heard such charges before.

"I don't feel anti-American," she said. "I just believe that the U.S. should provide constructive leadership in the world. That hardly exists anymore."

Patriots can surely deliver the wrath of a nation, but they can also demonstrate the highest glory of democracy: Americans are endowed with the right to speak freely about complex issues, to talk out our competing ideas and to choose the ones that the greatest number of us can support. Somewhere in our molten marketplace of ideas, we must hear Bunting's voice, too. It's the patriotic thing for all of us to do.

Nelson's column runs on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Call her at 823-3691 or send e-mail to knelson@abqtrib.com.

Author: Kate Nelson

Page: A4

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Group to deliver 'waste' to governor

An anti-nuclear group plans to deliver 1,000 cans of mock nuclear waste to Gov. Gary Johnson's office today to publicize its efforts to close a waste-storage site in Los Alamos.

The Los Alamos Study Group says its "can-paign" is aimed at closing the so-called Area G, which has accumulated more than 11 million cubic feet of toxic and radioactive waste since 1957.

The cans, which contain various foods, are labeled to look like nuclear-waste drums with a letter on the labels, asking Johnson to donate the food to charity, says a news release.

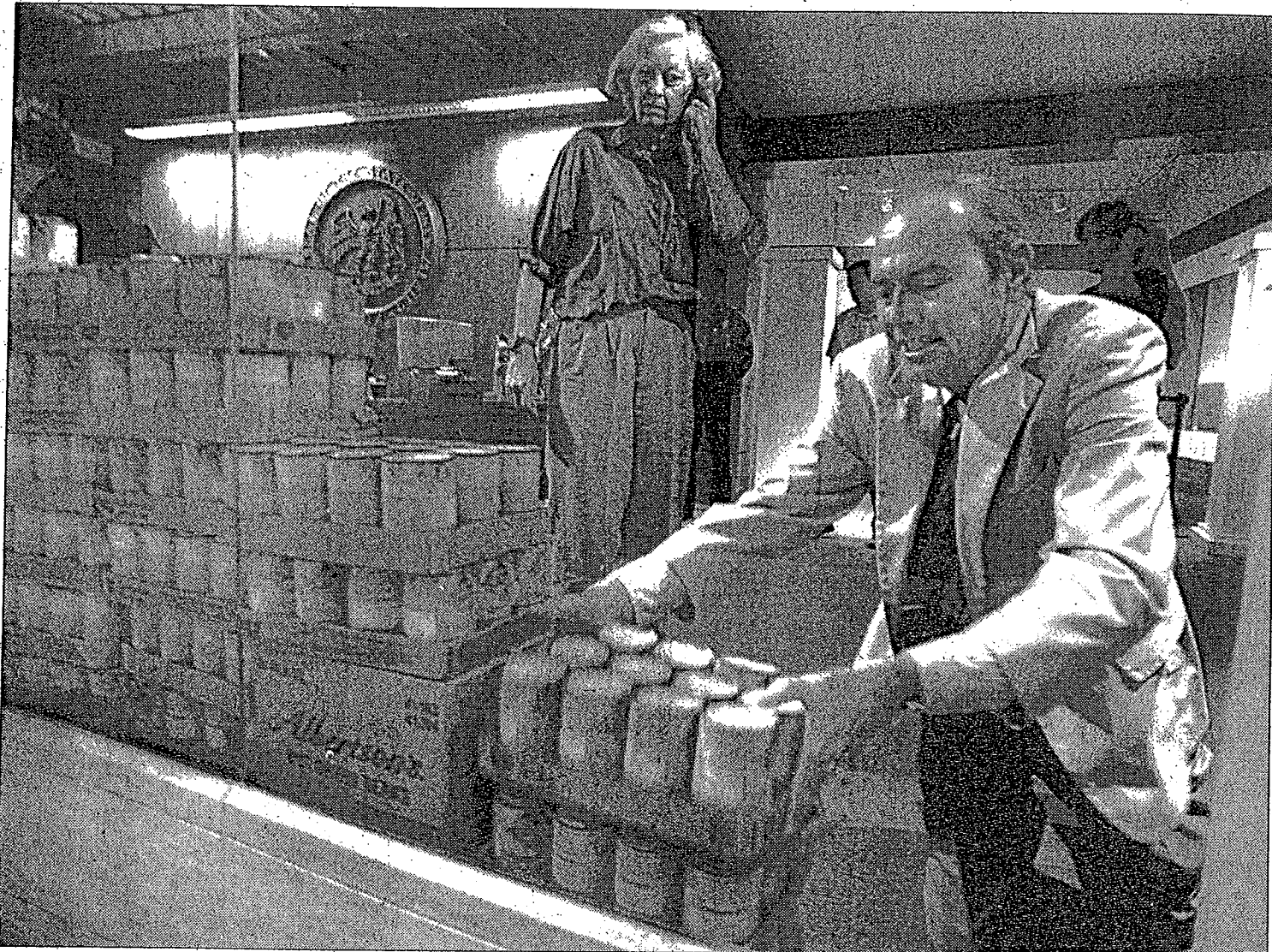
Study Group Director Greg Mello says in the release that Los Alamos National Laboratory should close the site.

"There is no perfect answer to the question of what to do with the waste Los Alamos keeps generating," he said. "Making less of it is certainly possible. But under no circumstances should dumping the waste in shallow unlined pits above your drinking-water supplies be among the answers we ought to consider."

9/20/01

Staff and wire reports
New Mexican

Johnson gets a taste of CAN-Paign effort



Katharine Kimball/The New Mexican

Los Alamos Study Group volunteer Bob Shaw, right, places a box of canned food — repackaged to resemble miniature drums of radioactive waste — inside Gov. Gary Johnson's office Thursday as fellow volunteer Cathie Sullivan watches. The group, a Santa Fe-based nonprofit, organized the canned-food drive. Each can of vegetables represents the plea of a New Mexican that the state step in and close the radioactive-waste dump at Los Alamos National Laboratory, according to a study-group news release. Letters addressing Johnson and affixed to the labels of the cans request the food be donated to the poor after the governor notes the names and addresses of the New Mexicans sending the food.

9/21/01

Nuke Protesters Take Case to Gov.

■ *Group decorates cans of food as nuclear waste drums to push for closure of LANL dump*

By JENNIFER MCKEE
Journal Staff Writer

A Santa Fe disarmament group stacked 1,000 cans of sweet peas, mixed veggies and other Del Monte treats — each decorated to look like a mini-drum of nuclear waste — in Gov. Gary Johnson's office Thursday.

Johnson was in an airplane somewhere over Alamogordo at the time, said his scheduler, and was not available for comment. His spokeswoman, Diane Kinderwater, said Thursday evening the governor has not decided what to do with the 1,000 cans.

The move is part of an ongoing campaign by the Los Alamos Study Group to persuade Johnson to help close Los Alamos National Laboratory's nuclear waste dump and to persuade the nation to spend more money on food rather than bombs.

The lab repeatedly has said the dump, known as Area G, is safe.

"Our investment in nuclear weapons is starving our society," said Greg Mello, head of the study group, at a brief news conference in Johnson's outer office. "In this case, chili with beans is a better investment."

Mello intends to deliver 45,000 such cans to Johnson before the campaign is through, although he said the group has only sold 1,300 of the cans since the can drive began in June. He is asking Johnson to donate the cans, which people bought from the study group for \$3 each, to a local charity. The waste drum decoration peels off to reveal the original Del Monte label.

Johnson's scheduler said she didn't know what Johnson would do with the cans of food. No



JOSH STEPHENSON/JOURNAL

CALLING FOR ATTENTION: Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group hangs a sign over cans of food decorated to look like drums of nuclear waste that Mello and other nuclear disarmament supporters brought to the governor's office Thursday.

response was available later Thursday from the governor's office.

Although the event was not scheduled to be a question-and-answer with any state officials, Environment Department Secretary Pete Maggiore came to the event.

Maggiore said later that his department is looking into whether the state has legal authority to take any action to close the federal lab's dump.

"It's not clear from a legal perspective," he said.

Maggiore also said his staff is examining whether closing the dump is the best option — if the state were able to require such a move.



NOT REALLY WASTE: Cans of cut green beans, whole kernel corn and other vegetables masquerading as nuclear waste were delivered to Gov. Gary Johnson by the Los Alamos Study Group on Thursday.

Paper: New Mexican, The (Santa Fe, NM)

Title: In brief

Author: The New Mexican

Date: September 22, 2001

Section: Main

Gatherings today to call for peace

Santa Feans can choose from several peace events scheduled for today.

There's a People's Walk for Peace from the Capitol to the Plaza, starting at 10 a.m. and concluding with an informal gathering of local musicians.

An Interfaith Prayer and Meditation Vigil for Peace is planned for 9 a.m. to noon on the grassy area between the main Post Office and Grant Avenue. This event is sponsored by the Buddhist Peace Fellowship, **Los Alamos Study Group**, Santa Fe Vipassana Sangha, Mountain Cloud Zen Center, the Upaya Zen Center, Nevada Desert Experience, The Center for Action and Contemplation and the Spiritual Economics Series.

In the afternoon, the Peace Action Coalition is sponsoring a Gathering for Peaceful Alternatives from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church at Marcy Street and Grant Avenue.

Author: The New Mexican

Section: Main

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Neukorn Elizabeth Neustadter Shawn Newell Domenica Nieddu Kate Noble Peter Noom Kate Norton Fahz Norwick Tim Norwood Divya Nowland Greg Nusbaum Judy Nydes Kathleen Obermaier Daniel Obesin Patricia O'Casey Padraic O'Donnell Grag Ohisen Marcia Olds Janet Olimann Peter Olmsted Erin O'Neill Michael O'Neill Monica Ontiveros Chrie L. Ortiz Daniel Ortiz Manuel B. Ortiz Paul Ortiz William C. Paalman Susan Paalman Tom Paalman Ralph F.C. Pacheco Eliza Packard Michael C. Pagliata Jeanne Pahle Zoraida Palacios	Seishela Rime Barbara A. Robinson Gay Robinson Ross Robinson Christopher Rocca Pia Rocha Francesca Rodriguez Frank Rola Bruce H. Rolsted Chris Romero Cindy Romero Pedro Romero Elizabeth Roorbach P. Donna Roripaugh Alex Ross Wanda Ross Padilla Ann Lovell Rowe Richard Rowe Kenneth C. Rowley Sandra K. 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*If you would like to sign this petition, signatures are being gathered for presentation to our elected officials.
Petitions are available for distribution at www.lasg.org. Help us recruit more people!*

We will be assembling tomorrow, Monday, September 24 at noon to make a personal appeal to Senator Bingaman to host public meetings in New Mexico. Meet on the east side of the State Capitol and walk with us to the Senator's office at 119 E. Marcy St.

Call your elected officials and request that they conduct public forums to hear your concerns before committing the nation to war. Congresspersons from other states are doing this. Why not ours? Call the numbers listed at right.

Senator Jeff Bingaman
(202) 224-5521 (505) 988-6647

Senator Pete V. Domenici
(202) 224-6621 (505) 988-6511

Representative Tom Udall
(202) 225-6190 (505) 984-8950

For more information, to sign the petition, or to help pay for this and future ads, please contact:
LOS ALAMOS STUDY GROUP, 212 East Marcy, Suite 10, Santa Fe, NM 87501 • 505-982-7747 • info@lasg.org • www.lasg.org

Group voices concerns over U.S. military moves

9/25/01

The Associated Press

New Mexican

More than 80 people met members of the Los Alamos Study Group at the state Capitol on Monday and marched to U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman's office on Marcy Street.

"The purpose was to ask Sen. Bingaman to come home and talk to New Mexicans before the United States is committed to war," said Greg Mello, Los Alamos Study Group director.

Mello said he received no assurances from Bingaman's staff that Bingaman, D-N.M., would meet with the group, but did speak at length with Terry Brunner, Bingaman's field representative.

Jude McCartin, Bingaman's spokeswoman in Washington, D.C., said Bingaman "would be happy to meet with his constituents and hear about their concerns."

The group left the Capitol at about 12:15 p.m. and arrived at Bingaman's office at 12:36 p.m., Mello said.

"Many sober, hard-headed perspectives were provided," Mello said.

"We're asking the senator to look closely at the cost and benefits of waging peace in the world instead of war," he added.

With the exception of curious onlookers and a car passing by twice with a sign that said, "U.S. all the way, kill him," the trek was uneventful, Mello said.

Activists Take Peace Message To Bingaman

9/25/01

BY WREN PROPP
Journal Staff Writer

Calling for military restraint in the face of terrorist attacks, 77 people marched to the front doors of U.S. Sen. Jeff Bingaman's Santa Fe office on Monday to ask the senator to come home and listen to their concerns.

Activist and religious groups have gathered nearly 3,000 signatures on a petition calling for judicial prosecution of those responsible for the attacks, not a war that would "kill innocent men, women and children," according to Lydia Clark of the anti-nuclear Los Alamos Study Group.

Representatives of Bingaman and Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., who also was asked Monday to return to the state and hold meetings about future U.S. military action — acknowledged they received

See **MARCHERS** on **PAGE 3**

Marchers Take Pleas for Peace to Bingaman's Office

from **PAGE 1**

the requests but did not immediately set dates for meetings.

"He's always happy to meet with constituents," said Jude McCartin, spokeswoman for Bingaman. "But we haven't been able to work it into his schedule."

Udall's spokesman said the representative of the 3rd Congressional District is looking at holding town hall meetings in the wake of the attacks, although the schedule for Congress has changed because of the attacks and the meetings have not been scheduled.

Terrorists hijacked airliners Sept. 11 and crashed into the twin

towers of the World Trade Center and a portion of the Pentagon. A fourth hijacked airliner crashed in Pennsylvania. More than 6,000 people are dead or presumed dead in the attacks.

Meanwhile, President Bush has called for war on Osama bin Laden and a network of anti-U.S. terrorist groups believed to have been financed by him.

Marchers gathered on the front walk of the Roundhouse on Monday and walked to Bingaman's Santa Fe offices.

David Bacon, a member of Los Alamos Study Group's board of directors, handed out dark blue marbles, designed to look like

miniature globes, to symbolize "the lost marbles in Washington, D.C."

"People really want to see restraint and justice, not an open-ended, blank check for Bush to wage war," Bacon said. "We want to have a discussion."

Bacon collected the marbles after the marchers arrived at the front door of Bingaman's Santa Fe offices. He handed the marbles over to Terry Brunner, a representative for Bingaman, who stood outside in the noonday sun to hear several marchers speak about their desire for public meetings and restraint.

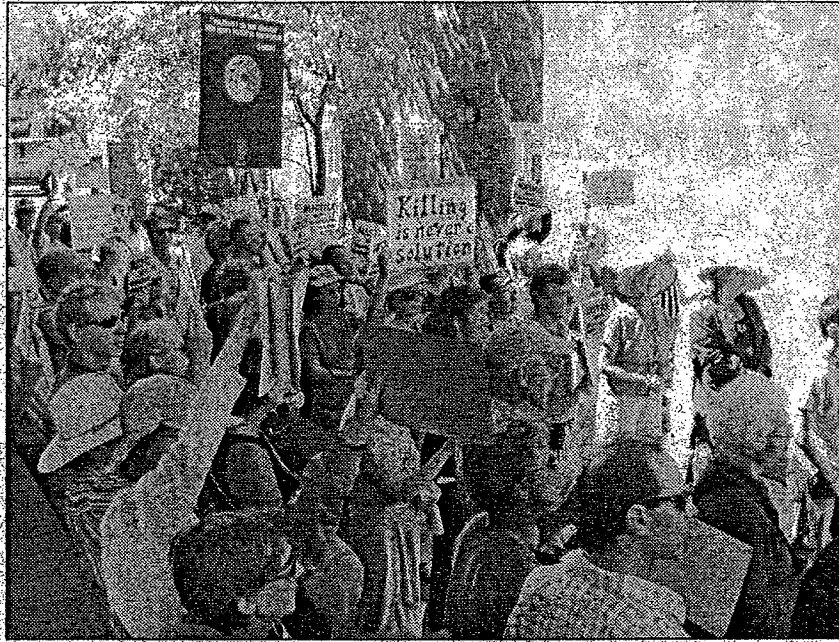
The marchers sang "Give Peace a

Chance." At one point a marcher called out: "We want Jeff Bingaman to be a hero; we want him to be the Barbara Lee of the U.S. Senate."

Lee, from California's 9th Congressional District, was the only U.S. representative who voted against a resolution authorizing the use of military force in the wake of the attacks.

Joan Halifax, a Buddhist nun with Upaya Zen Center in Santa Fe, told Brunner that all feel sorrow for those who lost their lives in the attacks.

But "violence perpetuates violence," she told Brunner.



ANNE RAY

Close to 100 anti-war protesters petitioned US Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-NM, on Sept. 24 to hold a public forum on community concerns.

9/26/01 Santa Fe Reporter

Udall Sets Forum on Attacks

Journal Staff Report

9/27/01

Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M., will hold a town hall meeting at 11:30 a.m. Friday in Santa Fe to discuss the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and the expected U.S. response.

The meeting will be held at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center, 1121 Alto St.

Earlier this week Udall had been urged by activists in northern New Mexico — including the anti-

nuclear group Los Alamos Study Group — to hold public forums on U.S. reaction to the attacks.

A spokesman for Udall said Wednesday that the congressman already had planned a town hall meeting after the deadly attacks, but his plans were propelled by the activists' urging.

Udall, a member of House Veterans' Affairs Committee, also will discuss a variety of congressional issues.

(Our response must be deliberate, just and humane)

WE APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT

We, the undersigned, extend our deepest sympathy to the victims of last week's terrorist attacks. We call on our elected leaders to respond with the utmost wisdom—and restraint—to these acts. We must bring the guilty to justice, but we cannot kill innocent men, women, and children. To do so would betray our deepest values. Such a course of action could very easily draw us into a spiral of violence that would truly destroy our security, undercut our humanity, and damage our democracy far more than could any terrorist act. To lure us into a vengeful response may well have been a goal of the attackers. We must resist this temptation. No terrorist attack from the outside, however severe, can destroy America. Only a betrayal of our core values could do so. For this reason we must also be especially careful to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans—especially Arab-Americans, who are now vulnerable to unwarranted accusation, discrimination or worse. We need to strengthen civil liberties, not abridge them. If we wish to be a truly great democracy, secure from fear, we must have the courage to lead the world in the paths of justice, not those of violence.

The following 1,014 individuals and organizations do not include about 180 of the signers listed in last Sunday's New Mexican. Names with asterisks contributed to this ad; names in bold represent major contributors. We hope we can include in a future ad the 1,000 additional names we have already received.

Buddhist Peace Fellowship
 Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety
 Denman and Associates
 Forest Guardians
 Green Party of Santa Fe
 Los Alamos Study Group
 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Santa Fe Branch
 New Mexico Toxics Coalition

Nuclear Watch of New Mexico
 Peace Action New Mexico
 Piñon Fast Print
 Santa Fe Stone
 Santa Fe Vapassana Sangha
 Southwest Energy Institute
 Southwest Organizing Project
 The Spiritual Economic Series
 Wild Angels

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 Sele Brigham
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 9/28/2001

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Louise Baum	Jessica Carey	Winfred Devlin	Lawrence Gold	Ursula Hofer	William Labar	Jean Mayes	Patricia O'Donnell	Caroline Russell	Janet A. Swowden	Jean Mayes
Nicole Baumgart	Padme Carey	Kamal Singh	Arlene Goldberg	Mary Holstet	Christa M. Lad	Meg McCalla	Greg Ohlen	Mary Russell	Bruce Swanton*	Meg McCalla
Murray Bean	Todd Carmam	Dhineisa	Bruce Gollub	Deborah Holder	Alexandra Ladd	Melana	Marcia Oida	Janice St. Marie	Jean Anne Swope	Melana
William Beems	Erica Carr	Chris Diaz	Rachael Gollub	Penny Holland	Sarah Laeng-Elliott	McCandless	Kay Oliver	Marcos Saliz	Alana Swoyer	Sarah Laeng-Elliott
Sherill Bell	Sybil Carrillo	Nedra DiFilippo	Mansha J. Gonzales	Susan Holmes	Jakob Lain	Dan McCarthy	Ron Lake	Joseph Sanchez	William L. Sylvester	Jakob Lain
Anita Bellamo	Eleanor Carroll	David E. Dimas	Sam Gonzales	Nicole L. Holt	Eleanor A. Lamb	Janet Oilmann	Eleanor A. Lamb	Norrie Sanders	Rinke Takehashi	Eleanor A. Lamb
Kyce Bello	Cynthia Carter	Lois Goodman	Lois Goodman	Will Holub	Elizabeth LaPan	Peter Oimaded	Helen McCarthy	Aubry Sandwell	Raqueel Tapia	Elizabeth LaPan
Bob Bennett	Forest Carter	Michelle Goodman	Michelle Goodman	Dee Homans	Samuel Larcombe	Erin O'Neill	Celina McClaren	Maria Santelli	Katherine Taylor	Dee Homans
Mark Bennett	Lee Carter	Dama Goodwin	Dama Goodwin	Sharia Hondres	Patricio C. Larragoite	Michael O'Neill	Marguerite McClure	Julie Potras Santos	Walt Teilmann	Sharia Hondres
Mary Ann Bennett	Marion Carter	Peter Goodwin	Peter Goodwin	Greg Hoover	Wendy Hornaby	Monica Ontiveros	Adrienne	Rick Santos	Shelley Tener	Greg Hoover
Baker Bent	Lee Cartwright	Sue Gordon	Sue Gordon	Wendy Hornaby	Forrest Hotmar	Sandra K. Ortel	McCurach	Kathleen Savage	Peter Tengler	Wendy Hornaby
Robert A. Barry	Rita Cash	Keith Gore	Keith Gore	Danna Larson	Janice Houlberg	Chris L. Ortiz	Wendy McEahem*	Dorothy Schoech	Judith Thatcher	Keith Gore
Georgia Bianchi	Laura Center	Anne Gorges	Anne Gorges	Lisa Law	Alona Howard	Daniel Ortiz	Will McGowan	Kim Schwaring	Anthony Thibodeau	Anne Gorges
Alice Ana	Demetri Cervome	Christine Gossin	Christine Gossin	John L. Law, MD	Willow Howard	Manuel B. Ortiz	James McGraw	Barbara Thomas	Barbara Thomas	Christine Gossin
Biggeststaff	C.A. Chapman	David J.M. Gown	David J.M. Gown	Mary Layne	Hide Howden	Paul Ortiz	William C. McIntire	Barbara Thomas	Barbara Thomas	David J.M. Gown
John Bingham	Barbara Chattyeoe	Molly A Howitt	Molly A Howitt	C. Leadley	Constance S Hughes	Robert Ott	Brent McKay	Addie Scooto	James Thomas	Molly A Howitt
Melissa Binnell	Kathryn Chester	Jim Graham	Jim Graham	Phyllis Leavitt	Barb Hutchison	Susan Paalman	Elizabeth B.	Barbara Seeley	Brad Thome	Phyllis Leavitt
Dana T. Biondo	Janis Chikwood	Mary L. Graham	Mary L. Graham	Merylin LaBlanc	Richard K. Hutchison	Tom Paalman	Allen McLaughlin	Ted Seeley	Brenda Thome	Merylin LaBlanc
Joe Bird	Deanne Coles	Paige Grant	Paige Grant	Reuben Labo	Richard K. Hutchison	Ralph F.C. Pacheco	Phyllis Leavitt	Jane W. Seibe	Ayanna Thompson	Reuben Labo
Shana Black	Christensen	Margaret Gray	Margaret Gray	Alan Lee	Richard K. Hutchison	Eliza Packard	Iris Leavitt	Scott Seidin	Bird Thompson	Margaret Gray
Marilee Blanchard	Mary Ann Christian	Nancy L. Gray	Nancy L. Gray	Gregory K. McMullan	Nancy L. Gray	Michael C. Pagliata	Gregory K. McMullan	Eric Serna	Inga Thompson	Gregory K. McMullan
Merida Blanco	William Christison			Penelope McMullen		Zoraida Palacios		Marion Seymour	Cerck Thompson	
									Bonnie Thornton	

If you would like to sign this petition, signatures are being gathered for presentation to our elected officials.

Petitions are available for distribution at www.lasg.org. Help us recruit more people!

We will be assembling tomorrow, Monday, September 24 at noon to make a personal appeal to Senator Bingaman to host public meetings in New Mexico. Meet on the east side of the State Capitol and walk with us to the Senator's office at 119 E. Marcy St.

Call your elected officials and request that they conduct public forums to hear your concerns before committing the nation to war. Congresspersons from other states are doing this. Why not ours? Call the numbers listed at right.

Senator Jeff Bingaman
(202) 224-5521 (505) 988-6647

Senator Pete V. Domenici
(202) 224-6621 (505) 988-6511

Representative Tom Udall
(202) 225-6190 (505) 984-8950

For more information, to sign the petition, or to help pay for this and future ads, please contact:

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Date--09/29/2001 Edition--Journal North Page--1

Terror Concerns Fill Air

By Morgan Lee Journal Staff Writer

Udall Urges Public To Put Aside Fears

Santa Fe residents crowded into a west-side seniors' center to asked their congressman to rethink American foreign policy and study the causes of the Sept. 11 attack on New York and Washington.

"I want to know why we as a government are not discussing at all the root causes of this terror," said retired CIA analyst William A. Christison of Santa Fe at the town hall meeting called by Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M. "All we're doing right now is the military response, covert and Green Beret-type response," Christison said.

Standing below a bingo score board at the Mary Esther Gonzales Center, Udall invoked the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and urged the public to put aside fears and get back to their normal routines to calm the rippling economic effects of the attacks.

After some audience members leveled criticism at U.S. foreign policy for breeding animosity in the Middle East, Udall responded with childhood recollections of President Kennedy and the creation of the Peace Corps.

Emphasizing his awareness of the gravity of the attacks and the need for changes in national security, Udall said his Washington residence a few blocks from the Capitol is a potential target for enemies of the United States.

"I believe that Sept. 11 completely changed the way we need to do a lot of things, including security at home," Udall said, to an audience including at least one World War II veteran. "The military is prepared for the Omaha beaches. That's yesterday's war."

Udall said he came to listen to suggestions and asked people to respect one another's opinions.

Scores of people voiced questions and concerns, almost all related to the events of Sept. 11 and the U.S. response.

Several raised general concerns about limits on free speech and other civil liberties in the United States. One woman wanted a halt to trucking nuclear waste in New Mexico. One man said the United States should forgive its debts in the Third World and share its wealth. Santa Fe massage therapist Alicia DaSilva said she was in Manhattan on Sept. 11 and afterward to watch public memorials to the victims emerge.

"The prayers are not for retribution," DaSilva said, expressing concern about her government's response.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, which agitates for nuclear disarmament, presented Udall with sunflowers dyed red as if by blood, a token Udall waved off to an assistant in front of a television

cameras.

Financial planner Brian Gibb of Santa Fe said the events of Sept. 11 call for "out-of-the-box" thinking.

"Let us go into Afghanistan and bomb them with butter and medicine," Gibb said. He suggested exporting radios to bring people in Afghanistan news from outside the Taliban regime.

One woman accused Udall of granting President Bush too much authority in the days after the attacks.

Udall responded by explaining the specifics of authority recently granted by Congress.

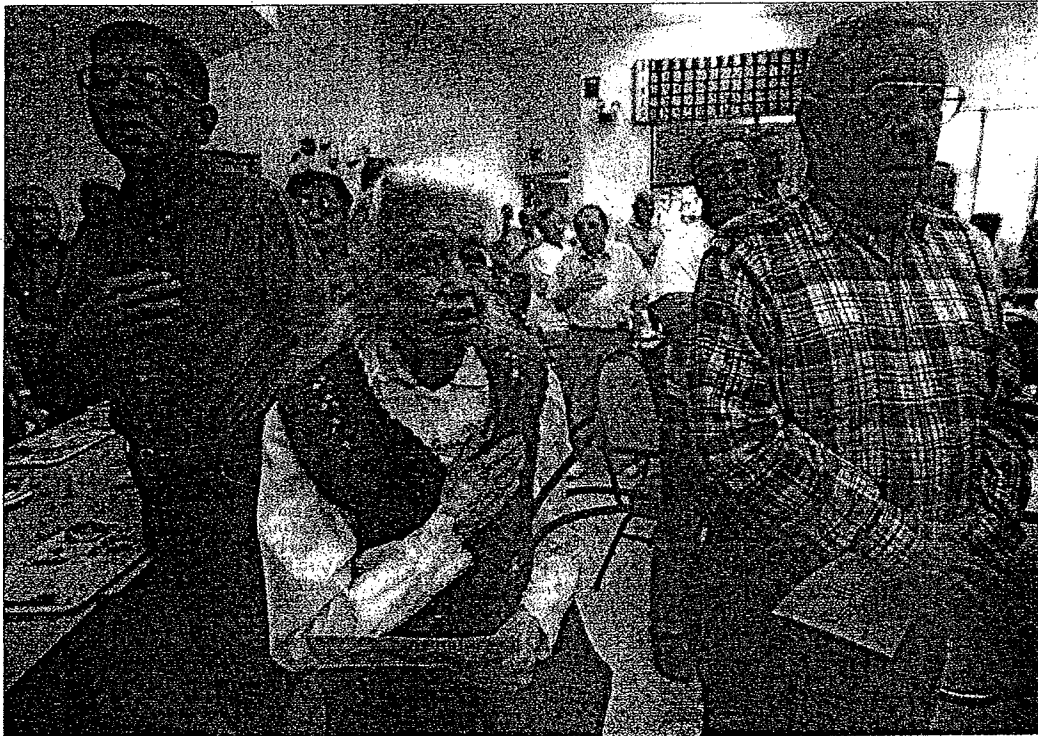
"Nowhere in the resolution is the term war used," Udall explained. "It's 'appropriate and necessary force directed toward the Sep. 11 event.' "

PHOTO: Color

UDALL: Discussed attacks, preparedness at meeting

Voices of caution

Constituents tell Rep. Tom Udall the United States should examine the root causes of terrorism and avoid resorting to military force in response to attacks



Mabel Meyer, center, and Manuel Romero, right, recite the Pledge of Allegiance before a town meeting with U.S. Rep. Tom Udall at the Mary Esther Gonzales Senior Center. Constituents voiced an overwhelming concern about the faults in U.S. foreign policy and hopes for a peaceful U.S. response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11.

Photos by Katharine Kimball
 The New Mexican

► Town meeting on terrorism draws 175 people from the Santa Fe area

By TOM SHARPE
 The New Mexican

The opinions of many Santa Fe-area residents at U.S. Rep. Tom Udall's town meeting Friday contrasted starkly with those of other Americans.

While seven of 10 people nationwide favor a military response to the Sept. 11 terrorism, according to a *Washington Post* poll, most at Friday's meeting with Udall said military action would only increase terrorism.

"Bomb them with butter," said one speaker. "Drop radios so that they can hear news from the world not filtered by their own government."

Others among the 175 people at the Mary Esther Gonzales Center on Alto Street said the United States is partly to blame for training members of the Taliban and aligning itself with extremist governments that have poor human-rights records.



Udall, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, addresses a crowded cafeteria at the senior center. Udall expressed hope that the talk of war would dissipate, saying, "We are not prepared as a country right now to deal with this kind of issue."

A poll by *The Washington Post* released Friday found a broad willingness to forgo civil liberties to help the authorities combat terrorism. Large majorities favored increased wiretapping, surveillance of voice mail and e-mail, and admitting foreign-intelli-

gence evidence that normally would not be allowed in court.

The *Post* poll of 1,215 adults found that nine of 10 Americans back President Bush's policies. A smaller but significant majority

Please see FORUM, Page A-3

FORUM

Continued from Page A-1

avored overthrowing the Taliban government in Afghanistan. Many also supported military intervention in other countries, such as Iraq.

But many speakers Friday urged restraint.

William Christison, who identified himself as a retired CIA analyst, said the U.S. government should be looking at the root causes of terrorism, rather than considering a "Green Beret-type response."

Peggy Frank said a military response would please those who wage jihad.

"This is their bag, dying for their cause — this 'Don't throw me in the briar patch,'" she said.

Debra Oliver said the United States sells weapons to Middle Eastern countries while refusing to sign treaties limiting chemical and biological weapons.

"The School of the Americas taught and trained the Taliban," she said.

Naomi Woodspring said that any congressman who votes for war with Afghanistan should "commit to having at least one family member out on the battlefield."

Debbe Browne urged Udall to promote the use of solar, wind and other alternative energy to help the country to be less dependent on oil.

Louise Baum called for attention to the plight of the Palestinians, instead of unilateral support of Israel.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group called for the United States to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction.

"If you look at the causes and the ways in which terrorism works, one of the very few things we can actually affect is people's perception of us," he said. "If we actually do things that will help people, we can undercut that hatred."

Taj von Diergardt said that

after growing up in postwar Germany, she knows firsthand what it's like to live without civil liberties. She urged Udall not to let those rights be eroded during this period of heightened national security.

"We don't have to give up our civil liberties to fight terrorism," Udall responded. "I think you are going to see leveler heads prevail as we move through this whole process."

Carlos Felix Pacheco told Udall on Friday that he has flown a U.S. flag since his first experience with combat on Dec. 13, 1942, when it was clear who the enemy was.

"Now, we have to be very, very careful who the enemy really is," he said. "The enemy could be me."

A woman who said she was in New York City on Sept. 11 urged Udall to visit the city soon to see the shrines to those who died in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center:

"The prayers are for peace, not for retribution," she said. "We are the most threatening force on this planet right now."

Sol Hill said the United States' support of dictators such as the shah of Iran creates revolution.

"This is the cause of their animosity and their hatred," he said. "The only legitimate opposition that has been able to survive is in the clergy. Therefore, we have created a radical Islam. It's time to change our foreign policy."

Sister Penelope McMullen of the Sisters of Loretto said the U.S.-engineered overthrow of Chilean president Salvador Allende ended with his assassination on Sept. 11, 1973.

"Engage other nations of the world to capture the suspects and give them a fair trial in the international criminal court," she said. "We are more secure when people do not hate us."

Chris Mechels said added military appropriations on the heels of the recent tragedy are "the worst kind of pork" and would "assure that in the future, we'll get to

lose all of New York, not just two buildings."

Todd Kelly said that added security measures are creating more fear among Americans.

"I don't want to live in an America that's based on fear," he said.

Dorothy Doyle asked Udall why he voted to give Bush "carte blanche" for military action.

Udall, a Democrat who first was elected to represent New Mexico's 3rd Congressional District in 1998, responded that another resolution "was, as you say, truly a blank check." The one passed by Congress "was not a declaration of war," he said. "Nowhere in the resolution is the term war used."

"It's not an open-ended thing. It's very specifically aimed at the people who did this on Sept. 11. Appropriate force should be used to bring them to justice. I agree with that vote."

Udall ended the meeting by saying that while the U.S. military is "prepared for the Omaha Beaches — yesterday's war," it must improve its ability to combat terrorism.

"Many of our foreign-policy efforts in the past have not paid off," he said. "It's like this tangled web that we've woven as a country around the world, and many of those kinds of things are coming back and haunting us today."

Paper: Oakland Tribune, The (CA) *Associated Press*
Title: Livermore lab counterterrorism budget to grow - Significant and expanding role
Author: Lisa Friedman WASHINGTON BUREAU
Date: September 30, 2001
Section: Front Page

WASHINGTON -- The threat of deadly germ spores and poisonous gas clouds could mean big bucks for Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and other nuclear research centers. Already Livermore and New Mexico's Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories receive more than \$40 million in annual government funding to detect, analyze and protect against chemical and biological threats.

Earlier this year, the White House tried to slash that budget. But that was before terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, before the prospect of silent and even more deadly attacks through the air and water became credible fears in minds of many Americans.

Immediately following the Sept. 11 attacks, Congress approved \$40 billion in emergency funds, half of which will be used for intelligence and defense. Last week, the U.S. Senate restored the lost \$12 billion in counter-terrorist funding for the national laboratories, and the House of Representatives scrambled to do the same. In the coming years, analysts said, they expect the Department of Energy's nuclear lab budgets only to grow.

"I would expect they're going to have a very significant and expanding role. Clearly defense against biological weapons and prevention against proliferation is going to be a significant growth stock," said Bob Sherman, director of the Federation of American Scientists' strategic security project.

"It's hard to see with any certainty where the budget will increase, but certainly the overall counterterrorism budget will expand, and the labs will be a recipient of that increase," said Michael Powers, research associate with the Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute.

Not everyone believes that is a good thing.

As Los Alamos prepares to build a new biology lab to handle live, disease-causing organisms, many scientists and watchdog organizations claim the labs are overstepping their bounds. Moreover, though, groups say they simply don't trust the DOE, with its history of security blunders and secret bomb-making, to do any biological research.

"These are a bunch of scientists who think that they're national security jocks," said Greg Mello, director of the **Los Alamos Study Group**, a nonprofit nuclear disarmament group based in Santa Fe, N.M.

Labs, Mello said, "hope they can be the answer to biological weapons, so they are also trying to define the answer. Then it becomes one-stop shopping.... It's a very bad idea. These institutions are very secretive. The integrity level is not high, and they have a conflict of interest."

Yet when it comes to developing the technology to address chemical and biological terrorism, few disagree that the labs have taken a leading role. Historically, in the business of protecting the country's nuclear assets, the labs turned their attention toward chemical and biological concerns in 1995 after a terrorist unleashed sarin nerve gas in a Tokyo subway.

Since then, Livermore scientists have created a portable radiation detector. More recently they developed the technology for a hand-held experimental DNA analyzer that could make it easier to rapidly detect bacteria at the site of a terrorist attack. Researchers at Livermore's forensic science center also have been sequencing different strains of chemicals to help develop vaccines.

"We have very well-established areas of expertise at the labs. These are some of the best research facilities on the planet," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Alamo, who represents Livermore and has been appointed to the Democratic Caucus' task force on homeland security.

The looming question is whether the nation is willing to spend millions if not billions of dollars to implement these security measures.

Tauscher and others who represent national labs have been prodding the government to make the nuclear facilities a high-profile part of the new homeland protection effort. The morning after President Bush announced the new Cabinet-level position to be led by Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, U.S. Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., wrote a letter to Bush urging him to "exploit our greatest strength."

"I implore you to formally incorporate the Department of Energy laboratories as an important resource in our nation's effort to address this national security concern," he wrote.

Author: Lisa Friedman WASHINGTON BUREAU
Section: Front Page

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HARPER'S INDEX

- Number of "weapons of mass destruction" allowed in space, according to a 1967 treaty ratified by the United States : 0
- Number of abstentions to reaffirming the treaty last year besides those of the United States, Israel, and Micronesia : 0
- Number of "kills" a U.S. Air Force report anticipates achieving with space-based lasers in the future : "very many"
- Percentage of Americans who say Israel and the Arab nations will never "be able to settle their differences and live in peace" : 64
- Percentage of Russian nuclear scientists who say they are willing to work on another country's missile-defense program : 21
- Minimum number of nations currently targeted by the United States' integrated nuclear-war plan : 5
- Percentage change in the incidence of worker contamination at Los Alamos labs between 1993 and 1995 : +76
- Chances that an accident there in 1994 resulted in a "loss of control of radioactive material" : 2 in 3
- Chance that an accident resulted in a "loss of control of classified matter" : 1 in 20
- Number of staff members fired from New York's nonprofit WBAI-FM since December and banned from its premises : 12
- Number of surveillance cameras installed at WBAI's studios in May to monitor remaining employees : 8
- Number of network-TV dramas scheduled this fall whose protagonists are employed in law enforcement or the legal system : 17
- Chances that an American believes that the First Amendment "goes too far" in guaranteeing rights : 2 in 5
- Chance that an American believed this last year : 1 in 5
- Number of people arrested at last year's Republican National Convention : 390
- Number arrested at July's G-8 summit in Genoa, Italy : 298
- Number of "useless laws" that Italy's new prime minister promised to eliminate if elected : 60,000
- Chances that a state execution carried out last year took place in China : 7 in 10
- Chance that the death of a pregnant Nepalese is the result of an unsafe abortion : 1 in 2
- Ratio of the death rate among pregnant women in Nepal to the rate for pregnant women worldwide : 2:1
- Number of "trouser accidents" requiring hospital treatment in Britain in 1999 : 5,945 (see page 22)
- Minimum number of garden gnomes relocated to the forest since 1996 by France's Garden Gnome Liberation Front : 6,000
- Estimated number of mink released from a Spanish fur farm in July by unidentified activists : 13,000
- Minimum number of plant species that can be found only in Colombia : 15,000
- Ratio of acres of Colombia sprayed with defoliants last year to acres of Vietnam sprayed with Agent Orange in 1964 : 3:2
- Ratio of Oregon rainfall in April 2000 to rainfall last April after a Native American tribe held a rain ceremony there : 2:3
- Amount the tribe subsequently billed an Oregon power company for costs associated with the ceremony : \$32,000
- Percentage of his presidency that George W. Bush has spent at or en route to vacation spots : 42
- Amount of campaign contributions that Sen. James Jeffords has returned since leaving the Republican Party in May : \$17,470
- Estimated amount of new contributions he has received since then : \$45,000
- Amount the Treasury Department will borrow this year to pay for the tax refund : \$51,000,000,000
- Amount it had projected spending to service U.S. debt this year, before the tax bill passed : \$57,000,000,000
- Maximum domestic damages at which a U.S. law caps U.S. liability for a nuclear accident in space : \$9,500,000,000
- Maximum total foreign damages at which the same law caps U.S. liability for such an accident : \$100,000,000
- Maximum reparation per survivor of Nazi slave-labor camps won in a class-action lawsuit settled last May : \$7,038
- Average amount in legal fees each of the winning lawyers will receive : \$1,089,325
- Spending money that Slobodan Milosevic can earn per day for laundry duty at the U.N. prison at The Hague : \$2
- Amount Romania plans to spend by 2003 to build a Count Dracula theme park : \$20,000,000
- Number of George W. Bush Halloween masks sold nationwide last year by a New York distributor : 15,811
- Number of Al Gore masks sold : 15,739

Figures cited have been adjusted for inflation and are the latest available as of August 2001. Sources are listed on page 96.

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with symbols rather than with what they signify, with the elegantly composed recipe in lieu of actual dinner." For much of the last 200 years, writers employed drugs as heuristic tools, means of discovery. Once the imagination seized on the *poète maudit* eating hash or smoking opium for inspiration; now the symbols of substance-use stand not for enlightenment but for pleasure and nihilism: teen ravers on ecstasy, a wacked-out Wall Streeter snorting coke in the bathroom. Romantics like Plant or Ann Marlowe still exist, and they still write books, but their efforts carry with them more than a whiff of nostalgia.

Through almost all writing on drugs, a fixation on time reappears like a leitmotif. Coca, writes Plant, "was used as a measure of both exchange and time: the Incas preferred to be paid in coca rather than silver or gold, and Indians from the Peruvian sierra measured journeys in *cocadas*—the time between doses of coca." Cocaine speeds time along: Louis Blériot, the first man to fly across the English Channel, made his trip with a bottle of Mariani's tonic. Other drugs, depressants, have the effect of slowing time, concentrating the temporal in impossibly attenuated moments. *How to Stop Time*, Marlowe titles her book on heroin. Octavio Paz made the connection between drugs and time when he wrote, in *Alternating Current*, "The ultimate meaning of the use of drugs in our time is thus clearer now: it is a criticism of linear time and a nostalgia for (or a presentiment of) another sort of time."

To the question of why writers, who rely on the perspicacity of their minds for their livelihood, have been consistently attracted to chemicals that blunt their mental faculties, Paz's insight offers one compelling answer. Early in their lives, people who become writers tend to experience intensely the joy of forgetting oneself utterly in reading, of losing hours and days to that particular form of concentration. Drugs allow them to recapture that pleasurable focus, sating, for a period, their nostalgia for "another sort of time," specifically a child's version: contracted, frozen, escapist. I know of only two non-drug-induced analogues to the concentrat-

ed time experienced in childhood. One is that rare hour when I am able to block out all adult anxieties and, in the effortless way reserved for children, submit entirely to the book I'm reading. The other is in the act of writing itself.

Drugs do frequently induce fits of yearning—for an idealized Orient of opium dens, for the heady sixties, for smoke-filled jazz clubs, for a simpler time when it seemed risky and exciting to smoke hash or try ecstasy. The reasons are twofold. First, drugs are so interwoven into our cultural history that doing them, as with any rite or ritual, inevitably recalls other, older drug rituals: eating magic mushrooms with friends invokes, say, the shamanic ceremonies of the Pacific Northwest. Second, drugs produce similar and predictable results (this is a prime component of addiction), thus creating a kind of manifest continuity alien to our normal lives. Because drugs interrupt the unnoticed sequence of our daily existence, taking them has, often, the quality of an event. They are at once a part of and apart from the regular grind. Getting high feels new and unexpected and, at the same time, old, like something one read when one was young.

"Ever since I read De Quincey in my early teens I'd planned to try opium," writes Ann Marlowe. One of the disappointing lacunae I noticed in both Walton and Plant is that they never talk about the drug books of my own youth, which were tempters before they were guides: Jim Carroll's *The Basketball Diaries*; Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*; the sad pages of *Go Ask Alice*, the anonymous story of a teenage hippie girl's madness-inducing trip into substance abuse; Tom Wolfe's *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*; Robert Stone's *Dog Soldiers*; even Bret Easton Ellis's *Less than Zero*. Taken together, these books do not constitute a zenith of literary achievement; they have varying aesthetic value. What is certain is that their authors did not represent drugs primarily as a means of exploring and expanding consciousness, of plumbing the soul, or of attaining mystical knowledge. Each of these stories is less reflective than reportorial. As a romantic chiefly interested in the exploratory side of the drug experience, Plant could hardly be ex-

pected to fasten on to such examples of sheer escapism. And although escapism is in no way anathema to Walton's sensibility, his book doesn't exactly partake of "our so-called high culture," the history of which is the history of narcotics. Still, judging by his epigraph this is what Walton set out to write. Admirable as these books are, they fail in one important respect: they never try to tell us what connects Baudelaire or Freud with the greasy-haired fourteen-year-old who drops a hit of window-pane acid at the mall and then spends the rest of the night drinking beer and smoking pot with friends in a local parking lot. Apologies to Nietzsche, but that is the history of narcotics—how clever goats stumbled upon substances that for aeons were as commonplace as garbage; how these goats made us believe for a time that these substances were special and could make us special; and why it is that the goats have left the herd and all we see is garbage. ■

October Index Sources

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Featured Views

Published in the October 1, 2001 issue of [In These Times](#)

Test Anxiety

Bush Flirts With Resuming Nuclear Testing

by Jeffrey St. Clair

In the first few months of the Bush administration, international treaties have been falling faster than old-growth trees. The rebuke of the Kyoto global warming accord grabbed the headlines, but there have been a slate of others: the convention on small arms trade, the chemical and biological weapons treaty, the international ban on whaling, and the [Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty](#). Now the Bush administration wants to end the moratorium on testing nuclear weapons and junk the [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty](#).

Bush fumed against the test ban treaty repeatedly during his campaign, alleging that it undermined national security. Since the election, Bush has remained stubbornly mute on his personal position on resuming nuclear tests. (The current moratorium on nuclear testing was put into place as a pre-election ploy by his father in 1992.) But Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney have been less coy. Both have argued that the United States needs to resume nuclear testing to ensure the reliability of the Pentagon's nuclear weapons cache.

This is an old canard. The only parts of the nuclear stockpile likely to deteriorate are the non-nuclear components, which already are regularly tested and evaluated by the weapons teams without encroaching on the terms of the treaty. "All non-nuclear parts to a weapon can be extensively lab tested and replaced as needed--if needed at all," says Jay Coghlan, director of [NukeWatch](#). "The nuclear parts, specifically plutonium and surrounding high explosives, have been found to actually achieve greater stability with age."

The purported rationale for the U.S. nuclear stockpile, which now totals some 12,000 nukes and 10,000 plutonium pits (or triggers), is deterrence. Coghlan suggests that the real interest of the testing faction isn't to assure reliability, but to shift to more tactical uses. "U.S. nuclear weapons are certainly reliable in the sense that they are sure to go off," he says. "The concern that the military has with reliability is that weapons are not only guaranteed to go off, but explode close to design yield. This is important not for mere deterrence, but for nuclear warfighting."

One of the great myths of the Clinton era was that Clinton supported total abolition of nuclear testing. In fact, Clinton authorized a series of so-called subcritical nuclear tests and a number of other nuclear programs that quietly flouted the test ban treaty--which he simultaneously heckled the Senate for failing to approve. The Bush administration, of course, has no intention of seeking approval for the test ban treaty from the Senate, where it has languished for more than two years. But its top arms control negotiator, John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, has determined that the administration can't unilaterally withdraw the treaty from consideration. The Senate has two options: It can approve the treaty by a two-thirds vote, or it can send it back to the president for renegotiation through a simple resolution, which requires only a majority.

Currently, 161 nations have signed onto the treaty, and 77 nations have ratified it, including the rest of NATO. For the treaty to go into effect, it must be approved by 13 other nations. The other holdouts include China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel. But this renegade status doesn't seem to have deterred Bush in the least. Indeed, the president has loaded the top levels of his administration with full-blooded nuclear hawks, including Defense Department flacks Douglas Feith, Richard Armitage and Paul Wolfowitz, all of whom have railed against the limitations of the test ban treaty.

The most fanatical of the brood may well be Jack Crouch, Bush's pick for assistant secretary of defense for international security policy. In the mid-'90s, Crouch, then a professor at Southwest Missouri State, wrote a series of articles attacking the test ban treaty and the testing moratorium. He also argued that the United States should deploy nuclear weapons in South Korea and consider using them against North Korea if they did not accede to U.S. demands to drop their nuclear and biological warfare programs. Crouch reiterated his support for nuclear testing and his opposition to the test ban treaty during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Armed Services Committee. "I think that considering the resumption of testing is something that the administration ought to consider," Crouch said.

Consider it they are. Shortly after taking office, the Bush crowd heard from an advisory committee that had just completed a study on the "reliability, safety and security" of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The panel was headed by John Foster, former director of Livermore National Laboratory, who now serves as an adviser to TRW, one of the nation's top defense contractors. The Foster group urged the administration to begin taking steps to resume testing as quickly as possible and to begin training a new crop of weapons designers who could develop "robust, alternative warheads that will provide a hedge if problems occur in the future."

Even though most other nuclear scientists disagree, Foster, a protégé of Edward Teller, dismissed computer modeling as a substitute for real nuclear explosions. "There are a number of underground tests we can't reproduce," Foster told a gathering of weapons designers at the National Defense University in June. "We have these enigmas."

For Foster the answer to every enigma seems to be a nuclear explosion. He argues that the U.S. nuclear arsenal is aging and growing ever more unreliable. The average age of nukes in the U.S. weapons stockpile is 18 years, which Foster claims is six years older than their intended design life. "They will be many times their design life before they are replaced," Foster said. "We have opened some of the warheads and found some defects that are worrisome."

Using the Foster report as an excuse, in June the Bush administration instructed the Department of Energy to study how to shorten the time it takes to prepare nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site, the 1,350-square-mile bombing range 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Currently, the DOE says it will take at least 36 months to resume testing. But hard-liners in the Bush administration, such as Gen. John A. Gordon--director of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a shadowy wing of the DOE that manages nuclear weapons research, development and testing--want this time reduced to less than four months. "We are conducting an internal review on how we can improve significantly our readiness posture to conduct a nuclear test, should we ever be so directed," Gordon testified before the House. "This is not a proposal to conduct a test, but I am not comfortable with not being able to conduct a test within three years."

The move to truncate the readiness period for tests exposes yet another double-standard in the Bush administration's foreign policy. As the Pentagon moves ever closer toward resumption of testing, Secretary of State Colin Powell continues to chide India and Pakistan about dire consequences if either nation conducts new nuclear tests. "The Nuclear Security Agency's site readiness effort will unfortunately send exactly the wrong message to other would-be testers and test ban treaty hold-out states, including India, Pakistan and China," says Daryl Kimball of the Coalition to Reduce Nuclear Dangers. "It leaves the door open to a global chain reaction of nuclear testing, instability and confrontation in the future."

However, the rising anxiety over the Bush administration's frank talk about resuming live testing of nuclear weapons may serve to distract attention from a more ominous venture: the development of a new class of nuclear weapons systems. Most of the action these days is in the innocuous sounding Stockpile Stewardship Program. The stated intent of the program was to maintain an "enduring" arsenal of nuclear weapons and components. But that mission has discreetly changed. Now the Pentagon and the DOE talk about the "evolving" nature of the stockpile. Evolving is a code word for improving. The nuclear labs are busy turning old nukes into new ones.

During testimony before the House, Gordon grouched that for the past decade the Pentagon had not been able to actively pursue new weapons designs. He said he wanted to "reinvigorate" planning for a new generation of "advanced nuclear warheads." "This is not a proposal to develop new weapons in the absence of requirements," Gordon told the committee in a gem of Pentagon doublespeak. "But I am now not exercising design capabilities, and because of that, I believe this capacity and capability is atrophying rapidly."

Gordon wasn't being entirely truthful. The Pentagon and its weapons designers have been busy quietly crafting a variety of new weapons over the past decade. In 1997, they unveiled and deployed the B61-11, described as a mere modification of the old B61-7 gravity bomb. In reality, it was the prototype for the "low-yield" bunker blasting nuke that the weaponeers see as the future of the U.S. arsenal.

The testing issue may be a kind of political bait-and-switch designed to garner more money for the Stockpile Stewardship Program. The gambit goes like this: If you won't let us test the weapons, you've got to appropriate more money. Lots more. "The nuclear testing issue is a kind of red herring," says Greg Mello, director of the Los Alamos Study Group. "All discussion of possible 'nuclear testing' as the problem distracts attention from the real work of the complex, which does not need nuclear testing for 80 to 90 percent of its work. It is a form of blackmail."

Instead of pursuing disarmament, the big prize for the weapons labs has been the lavishly funded Stockpile Life Extension Program, an array of projects designed to stretch out the operational life of existing weapons for at least another 30 years. Currently, four major nuclear weapons are undergoing major upgrading under SLEP: the B61, known as a "dial-a-yield" bomb with a yield of 10 to 500 megatons; W76, the warhead for the Minuteman III ICBM with an explosive power of 170 kilotons; the W80, a warhead for cruise missiles; and the W87, a warhead for the Peacekeeper ICBM. The Pentagon wants another 11 systems modified.

These developments subvert the Pentagon's own official policy, signed by President Clinton in 1994, calling for "no new nuclear weapons production." The weaponeers at the Pentagon and the DOE are very touchy about the way they talk about these new bombs, being careful to speak in euphemisms like "reliability" and "safety" and "stewardship" of the "stockpile." "Energy Department managers have been sensitive to the hypocrisy in this program," Mello says. "The DOE honchos have even suggested that, given the political environment, the use of the word 'warhead' may not be acceptable."

There's a reason that the Pentagon and the labs have fixated on the idea of producing a new line of low-yield nukes: They can be redesigned and deployed without a new round of underground tests. And that may be a big part of the bait-and-switch approach, with the Pentagon arguing that since they were prohibited from testing new weapons, they were forced to retool old ones into the new mini-nukes favored by the Bushies--nukes that are geared not for deterrence, but for use against recalcitrant regimes.

But just because there's a push to build mini-nukes doesn't mean that the hawks have forgotten the big ones. According to the Bush squad, Russia still remains a threat and a justification for maintaining a robust strategic arsenal of bombs capable of leveling large cities. In this spirit, the Navy is teaming up with the Los Alamos and Sandia labs on a project called the Submarine Warhead Protection Plan. The labs and the Pentagon are desperate to protect their bomb-making mission, and they've done a good job of keeping

the new schemes funded, including upgrades of several of the nuclear packages for Trident submarines. Los Alamos is also working on the development of new systems that will allow older "air-burst" weapons to be converted into bombs that explode close to the ground, thus becoming what Rear Adm. George P. Nanos delicately refers to as "hard-target killers."

Beyond these pursuits, a host of other weapons design programs are up and running coast-to-coast, including: the insanely expensive National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore; plutonium pit factories; pulsed power plants; dynamic radiography facilities; tritium production plants; magnetized-target fusion research; an advanced facility designed to generate 3-D movies of imploding nuclear pits. These are the multibillion-dollar research toys of the modern weapons designer.

In the end, the nuclear game always comes down to one overriding obsession: money. For the past 50 years, the nuclear programs of the Pentagon and allied agencies have been among the most extravagantly funded and sacrosanct items in the federal budget. During the height of the Cold War, annual federal spending on nuclear weapons programs averaged about \$4 billion in today's money. The fiscal year 2002 budget proposed by Bush earmarks \$5.3 billion for DOE nuclear programs, a figure that will almost certainly be generously boosted by Congress. Indeed, New Mexico Sen. Pete Dominici, the Republican guardian of the Los Alamos and Sandia labs, vowed in July to hold the entire federal appropriations bill hostage unless spending on military programs, including nuclear weapons research, was substantially hiked.

In the political economy of nuclear weapons, enough is never enough. Endless expansion is the relentless logic of a monopoly protected by secrecy. "The nuclear weaponeers want it all," says Marylia Kelley, director of Tri-County Cares, a Livermore watchdog group. "This remains true regardless of who is president."

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Terror Concerns Fill Air

Udall Urges Public To Put Aside Fears

BY MORGAN LEE
Journal Staff Writer

10/1/01

Santa Fe residents crowded into a west-side seniors' center to asked their congressman to rethink American foreign policy and study the causes of the Sept. 11 attack on New York and Washington.

"I want to know why we as a government are not discussing at all the root causes of this terror," said retired CIA analyst



UDALL: Discussed attacks, preparedness at meeting

William A. Christison of Santa Fe at the town hall meeting called by Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M. "All we're doing right now is the military response, covert and Green Beret-type response," Christison said.

Standing below a bingo score board at the Mary Esther Gonzales Center, Udall invoked the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt and urged the public to put aside fears and get back to their normal routines to calm the rippling economic effects of the attacks.

After some audience members leveled criticism at U.S. foreign policy for breeding animosity in the Middle East, Udall responded with childhood recollections of President Kennedy and the creation of the Peace Corps.

Emphasizing his awareness of

See **UDALL** on **PAGE 3**

Udall Bombarded With Terrorism Concerns

from **PAGE 1**

the gravity of the attacks and the need for changes in national security, Udall said his Washington residence a few blocks from the Capitol is a potential target for enemies of the United States.

"I believe that Sept. 11 completely changed the way we need to do a lot of things, including security at home," Udall said, to an audience including at least one World War II veteran. "The military is prepared for the Omaha beaches. That's yesterday's war."

Udall said he came to listen to

suggestions and asked people to respect one another's opinions.

Scores of people voiced questions and concerns, almost all related to the events of Sept. 11 and the U.S. response.

Several raised general concerns about limits on free speech and other civil liberties in the United States. One woman wanted a halt to trucking nuclear waste in New Mexico. One man said the United States should forgive its debts in the Third World and share its wealth. Santa Fe massage therapist Alicia DaSilva said she was in Manhattan on Sept. 11 and afterward to watch

public memorials to the victims emerge.

"The prayers are not for retribution," DaSilva said, expressing concern about her government's response.

Greg Mello of the Los Alamos Study Group, which agitates for nuclear disarmament, presented Udall with sunflowers dyed red as if by blood, a token Udall waved off to an assistant in front of a television camera.

Financial planner Brian Gibb of Santa Fe said the events of Sept. 11 call for "out-of-the-box" thinking.

"Let us go into Afghanistan and

bomb then with butter and medicine," Gibb said. He suggested exporting radios to bring people in Afghanistan news from outside the Taliban regime.

One woman accused Udall of granting President Bush too much authority in the days after the attacks.

Udall responded by explaining the specifics of authority recently granted by Congress.

"Nowhere in the resolution is the term war used," Udall explained. "It's appropriate and necessary force directed toward the Sep. 11 event."

WE APPEAL FOR RESTRAINT

We, the undersigned, extend our deepest sympathy to the victims of the September 11th terrorist attacks. We call on our elected leaders to respond with the utmost wisdom—and restraint—to these acts. We must bring the guilty to justice, but we cannot kill innocent men, women, and children. To do so would betray our deepest values. Such a course of action could very easily draw us into a spiral of violence that would truly destroy our security, undercut our humanity, and damage our democracy far more than could any terrorist act. To lure us into a vengeful response may well have been a goal of the attackers. We must resist this temptation. No terrorist attack from the outside, however severe, can destroy America. Only a betrayal of our core values could do so. For this reason we must also be especially careful to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans—especially Arab-Americans, who are now vulnerable to unwarranted accusation, discrimination or worse. We need to strengthen civil liberties, not abridge them. If we wish to be a truly great democracy, secure from fear, we must have the courage to lead the world in the paths of justice, not those of violence.

These 837 individuals do not include about 2,225 individual and organizational signatories listed in the previous three ads. Names with asterisks contributed to this ad; names in bold are major contributors. We hope we can include more names in future ads.

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Innocent Afghans like these will suffer if war replaces justice as a response to crime. Our security is linked with theirs.

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Samuels Sherry Sandlin Ben Sandoval Stormy Sandquist Valerie Santillanes Mark Sardiela Doria Tyler Sarhanis	Penny Spring Nick Stallard Bill Stanton Eileen Stapleton John Stapleton Virginia Stark Amelle Starzyk Jamie Starzyk Trish Steindler Sabine Steinhart Silvia Stentzer Chelsey Stephens Diana Stetson Dayna Stevens Debra Stevens Liza Stewart Jasmine Stewart* Nakkaiw Stewart* Ruseel Stolins Bill Stone Audrey N. Storbeck Margaret Sullivan- Blanch Henry Summa Jan Sutcliffe Linda Swanson Sonja Swanson Carrie Talfoya Gail Terzuola Diana Thatcher Greg Theobald Mal Thion Sandra Thomas David C. Thompson Laurie M. Thompson Maureen Thomson Victoria Tietje Mike Tilley Paula Timmerman Stella Tohl Ernesto Torres Sandra Trimble Susan Tuder	Michelle Williams Robert Dean Williamson Franklin D. Wilson Judy Wilson Marcia Wilson Milton Wilson Thom Wilson Don Winkelmann* Michael Wnomer Jean L. Winterfelt Judith Witten Carol Witter Sandra Wolf Alicia N. Wolfe Cougat Ruthie Wolfe Doriana Woolley Enrique Wright Jerry Wright Karen Wright Audrey Writler Jamie R. Wyllie Wendy W. Wysong* Marianne Yancey Connie Yaqub Kirstin Yogg Beverly Young Elvira Young S. Young W. J. Young Bonnicia Youst Patti Yulians Elvira Zapata Ernest A. Zapato Catherine Zilla Burke Claire Zimmerman Claudia Zurie
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*If you would like to sign this petition, additional signatures are being gathered for presentation to the elected officials below.
Petitions are available for distribution at www.lasg.org. Thanks to all who have helped so far!*

CALL your elected officials and request that they conduct public forums to hear your concerns before committing the nation to more violence. Insist that they meet *and engage publicly* with their constituents regarding the full range of issues involved. If you have already called, consider **visiting their offices** to convey your concerns.

Senator Jeff Bingaman
119 E. Marcy Street
(202) 224-5521 (505) 988-6647

Senator Pete V. Domenici
120 S. Federal Place (Post Office bldg.)
(202) 224-6621 (505) 988-6511

Representative Tom Udall
811 St. Michael's Drive, Suite 104
(202) 225-6190 (505) 984-8950



Join Nobel Peace Prize recipient **Sir Joseph Rotblat** on Saturday, October 13, at 7:00 pm at Los Alamos High School's Topper Theater. Dr. Rotblat, the only scientist to leave the Manhattan Project on ethical grounds, will speak on "The Quest for Global Peace."

For more information, to sign the petition, or to help pay for this and future ads, please contact:

Los ALAMOS STUDY GROUP, 212 East Marcy, Suite 10, Santa Fe, NM 87501 • 505-982-7747 • info@lasg.org • www.lasg.org

INSIGHT & OPINION

analysis, commentary and ideas

10/4/01

EDITOR: JACK EHN '823-3616, jehn@abqtrib.com. DEPUTY EDITOR: LAWI

An APPEAL for RESTRAINT



Mourners attended a candlelight vigil just after midnight on Sept. 15 in New York City's Union Square. The tragedy of Sept. 11 has prompted an array of perspectives on how the United States should respond, from nonviolence to forceful military action.

The Associated Press

A Santa Fe group has gathered more than 3,000 signatures on a petition asking Congress to support justice without violence for the Sept. 11 attacks. Here is its case.

By Blake Trask

Sept. 11, 2001, is a day our nation will forever remember. Now, we can choose to follow a path that demonstrates justice and world leadership, or we can venture down an opposite path that kills to set an example for all other terrorists who seek to do harm to our nation.

These attacks, carried out by a small number of determined individuals, constitute a crime, not a war. The bombing in Oklahoma City was considered a crime, and, until now, all other like-minded acts of destruction carried out by terrorists have been treated as a judicial matter. No definitive difference exists between Oklahoma City and Sept. 11 to warrant the cries of war.

Even if the emotions of our leaders determine that this is a war, there is no clear enemy to fight. The many bellicose state-

OPPOSING VIEWS

Please see Page C2.

ments calling for war from Washington — a war without a nation state or any other recognizable political entity — are misguided and dangerous. We have never before fought against such an amorphous concept — “terrorism,” a word for which no internationally held definition exists.

War against a concept is not only dangerous because of its ambiguity but also because it sets no clear line for victory. The United States vilified Saddam Hussein during the Gulf War, and in many ways that war was against that one man, but the measure for success rested with the defeat of the Iraqi army. Now, our leaders have set in motion a war to exterminate terrorism — an impossible task, with neither an end nor a definable target.

More needs to be understood before the United States embarks on a mission of re-

TODAY'S BYLINE

Trask is the regional economist with the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear weapons policy, research and education organization based in Santa Fe.

TAP IN

To learn more about the Los Alamos Study Group, visit its Web site at www.lasg.org.

To comment to The Tribune on this topic, please write: Letters to the editor, The Albuquerque Tribune, P.O. Drawer T, Albuquerque 87103. Fax us at 823-3689. E-mail us at: letters@abqtrib.com.

venge. U.S. foreign policy has bred much of this hatred, and part of what we are experiencing is a “blowback,” or backlash, from previous U.S. foreign policy.

Obviously, justice is required for the victims and for our nation, but so is a proactive foreign policy in the Middle East that is less meddlesome and hypocritical. The United States must avoid the follies of past policies that alternately attempted to build up and tear down Arab regimes that were equally corrupt. According to *The Economist*, even the notion of jihad — a word that now terrifies us — was brought back after 1,000 years of remission with American encouragement during the Soviet-Afghan conflict.

The above reasons are not excuses for the unspeakable acts of terror committed on our soil. Instead, they are necessary details in the calculus of our just and deliberate response. A clearer understanding of the U.S. role in the Middle East is imperative to avoid future blowbacks causing further acts of destruction such as those that occurred on Sept. 11.

Since the attack, our nation has held a

tremendous amount of international political capital from our friends and enemies. An attack against innocent civilians to squelch an invisible enemy will not encourage this good will from so many disparate sources to continue. Only if we act with a strong sense of justice will we most effectively set an example that contradicts the flawed assumptions of the angry militants who attacked us.

Mindful of this critical juncture, volunteers and staff from the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear weapons policy research and education organization based in Santa Fe, set up public events that encouraged discussion about the terrorist attacks.

Out of these meetings came the idea for a petition that appeals for justice, restraint, racial tolerance and a strengthening of civil liberties in response to the attacks on Sept. 11. It calls for our nation to stay true to its core values and to avoid rash incidents of retaliation. Most important, it calls for the United States to lead, not through fear and violence, but by a determination to bring those guilty of this horrible crime to justice.

Through local discussion and debate about national and international issues, we can actively voice our opinions to New Mexico's congressional delegation.

More than 3,000 citizens have signed this petition for restraint. We now ask our congressional delegation to step back and to understand that our nation is at a crossroads in history. We must take the path toward justice and world leadership. We must avoid the path that leads toward the deaths of innocent civilians in an undefined and confusing war.

Thus, we ask our national leaders to let our response be a product of the decency that makes us a country that is willing to grieve — and let us answer that grief with justice, not blind, unquestioning revenge.

Date--10/06/2001 Edition--Journal North Page--9

Nobel Winner To Speak About Peace

Journal Staff Reports

IN BRIEF

Nobel Peace Prize winner Sir Joseph Rotblat is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 13 in Los Alamos on "The Quest for Global Peace."

Rotblat will speak at Topper Theater and his appearance is sponsored by the Los Alamos Study Group. Admission is free.

A Peace Prize recipient in 1995, Rotblat, a Polish-born physicist, worked on the Manhattan Project that created the first atomic bomb, according to the New York Times Almanac. He has since campaigned for the eradication of nuclear weapons.

The Nobel Committee granted him the award as a signal of protest to France and China for their continued nuclear weapons testing.

LANL Gearing Up To Move Nuclear Machines

Critics Say Area Is Hard To Defend

BY JENNIFER MCKEE
Journal Northern Bureau

10/16/01

SANTA FE — Energy Department officials have tentatively decided on what's to become of the Western Hemisphere's largest collection of nuclear critical assembly machines, now housed in a shallow canyon at Los Alamos National Lab-

oratory, some say it's vulnerable to terrorist attack.

The DOE released an environmental study last month pointing to another part of Los Alamos lab — Technical Area 55, which also houses plutonium — as the most likely place to relocate the collection. In doing so, the department ruled out moving the machines to the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas and the Argonne National Laboratory in Idaho. The bunkers have been housed at Los Alamos — in the same location and same thick-walled con-

crete buildings — since the early 1950s.

Nuclear testing

The machines are part of the Los Alamos Critical Experiments Facility, a collection of three specialized bunkers and several thousand pounds of nuclear materials, mostly uranium, nestled in a V-shaped canyon known as Technical Area 18. The bunkers are the only places in the United States where scientists can safely trigger a nuclear chain

reaction, the same force used to generate electricity in a nuclear power plant and which releases the power in a nuclear bomb.

A critical assembly is a collection of nuclear materials that can be positioned just right — and generally, very slowly — so subatomic particles spewing from one piece of nuclear materials trigger or feed into a similar radioactive process in another piece. The result is a nuclear chain reaction. The materials are handled remotely from control bays about a half a mile away to

protect scientists from radiation.

The first of the buildings, now known as CASAS, but for years called "kivas," was built around 1950, said Nancy Jo Nicholas, a nuclear physicist at the lab and deputy manager of TA-18. Two other CASAS were added shortly after. The buildings are immense, flat-roofed concrete cubes surrounded by multiple layers of chain-link fencing topped with concertina wire.

See LANL on PAGE 8

LANL Gears Up To Move Nuclear Testing Machines

from PAGE 1

Inside each are several "criticality bays," the special rooms housing the critical assembly machines. Some machines have flowery women's names like "Godiva." Others are more perfunctory, like "Planet" or "Flattop."

In the scenario announced last month, the facility would be moved to a mesa in the heart of the laboratory. The criticality bays would be positioned four stories into the mesa, with control rooms located above them. Generous amounts of concrete and steel, along with some space, would contain the radiation. Criticality experiments generate large bursts of radiation that quickly dissipate, Nicholas said.

The assemblies are used to train nuclear inspectors to calibrate radiation-detecting equipment, Nicholas said, and most importantly, to study just when and how various nuclear materials will spark a nuclear chain reaction or "go critical."

Problem reports

According to a lab report prepared three years ago, the latest available, such experiments are "vital to support the nuclear materials handling and weapons design activities at Los Alamos nuclear facilities and within the DOE complex."

But the facility has some problems, Nicholas said, and she's not the only one to say so. The buildings are old, "older than any of us," Nicholas said. They lack air conditioning, among other things, but are also 50 years behind the latest nuclear protection technology.

Because they lie at the bottom of a canyon, several miles from the lab's other nuclear facilities, they are also expensive to protect, about \$12 million a year, according to



EDDIE MOORE/JOURNAL

IN A CANYON: Nancy Jo Nicholas, physicist and deputy manager at Technical Area 18 of Los Alamos National Laboratory, outside the facility that the lab may relocate.

DOE information from 2000.

Even at that, security around the site has suffered some notable stumbles. In a mock terrorist attack staged in 1997, U.S. Army Special Forces acting as terrorists penetrated the facility and made off with enough nuclear materials to make a bomb, which they pulled behind them in a garden cart.

Then again last October, lab security forces reportedly suffered a second defeat in mock battle. The lab refuted the report, but Peter Stockton, a former high-ranking Energy Department administrator under then-secretary Bill Richardson, said the security forces were defeated.

A report to be released Tuesday by the Project on Government Oversight said security at 10 of the nation's nuclear weapons research and production facilities is poor. The report devotes about 50 of its 200 pages to Los Alamos lab and strongly suggests TA-18 is not adequately defended.

According to selections of the report obtained by the Journal, a security team appointed by Richardson visited the lab in summer 1999 and recommended TA-18 be shut down immediately.

The report cites other problems with the facility and cited several other safety audits that concluded the area needed stronger protec-

tion. Protection Technology Los Alamos, a retired Air Force colonel and former commander of Air Force security forces, said the several hundred troops who make up the force are better trained than police SWAT teams and the soldiers who guard military bases.

The troops are armed with machine guns, a standard side arm and have access to several other specialty weapons, which Killeen would not disclose due to security concerns. The force patrols the entire lab but focuses special attention on the lab's three nuclear facilities, including TA-18. Their vehicles range from Ford SUVs for street patrols and armored Humvees with machine gun turrets and special tires that function even completely deflated.

Killeen agreed that from a defensive point of view, TA-18 isn't an ideal location and requires more manpower to defend than a better-located facility. But the protective force dedicates the manpower needed; the area is well-defended and the nuclear materials housed there are safe, he said.

Lab spokeswoman Nancy Ambrosiano said the force-on-force exercises the guards participate in are not set up to have a clear winner, rather they are staged to point out weak areas in the guard force. The exercises are conducted regularly, and regardless of the two well-publicized problem exercises, the overwhelming majority of such training only demonstrates the guard forces' readiness.

In addition, the troops are regularly tested by DOE for physical fitness and shooting accuracy and routinely score above the 90th percentile.

Public comment

All readiness aside, Richardson settled the matter of what to do with

the facility in April 2000 when he announced that work at TA-18 would be moved elsewhere by 2004. Even then, Richardson said he wanted the work to stay at Los Alamos lab.

Hence, the announcement in September to move the facility.

Local critic Greg Mello, of the Santa Fe disarmament-advocacy organization Los Alamos Study Group, questioned why the nation needs such a facility at all.

Mello said the desire to keep the machines — and keep them at Los Alamos — was due in part to tradition, but also for the nation to keep one foot in nuclear weapons design, particularly designing so-called "mininukes," or low-yield nuclear weapons.

The nation is currently not developing any mininukes.

"If the purpose of TA-18 was just for safety training and science, then the activities there wouldn't be secret, but they are," Mello said.

Stockton also questioned why the agency chose Los Alamos to locate the facility when the Nevada Test Site, where the facility would have been located at the Device Assembly Facility, might make more sense.

"Clearly, the only sane and sensible alternative is to move to Nevada, he said. "It's the cheapest and most secure."

The DOE's environmental study did not include cost information for a new facility.

The Energy Department has not yet made a final decision on the facility. The public is welcome to comment on the plan until Oct. 26, when the official comment period ends. The DOE is hosting meetings near the facility examined in the study to see what people think of the tentative decision.

The Los Alamos meeting will be held Oct. 16.

Watchdog Group Pans Security at Lab

10/10/01
BY JENNIFER MCKEE
Journal Staff Writer

The latest chorus in a continuing debate over security at Los Alamos National Laboratory criticizes one part of the lab as vulnerable to terrorists — a report the lab and others say is untrue and inflammatory.

The Project on Government Oversight, a nonprofit, Washington, D.C.-based watchdog group, released a report Tuesday criticizing three elements of the Energy Department that deal with nuclear materials, among them Technical Area 18 at Los Alamos, home to

three special bunkers designed to safely contain a nuclear chain reaction. The area is also home to several thousand pounds of nuclear materials.

The report isn't the first time TA-18 has weathered criticism on security. Two highly-publicized security exercises, in which government troops act as "terrorists" and try to penetrate the lab's guard force, made headlines in 1997 and 2000 when the "terrorists" overwhelmed the lab guards at TA-18.

Former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson told the Journal last month he thinks security at the

area is now "first rate."

Still, this latest report alleges the Energy Department is bullheaded about making security upgrades, which, among other things, casts doubt about the safety of nuclear materials.

Los Alamos spokesman Kevin Roark, however, said the report fixates on the 1997 and 2000 exercises, virtually ignoring dozens of other such exercises at TA-18 and elsewhere in which lab forces do well. The exercises are a routine part of lab security training, he said, and contrary to reports, they are not set up to have clearcut winners or

losers. The last such test was conducted in June, he said, and the lab troops performed well.

"We found the report to be largely inaccurate and full of language we found to be inflammatory and largely unnecessary," Roark said, adding that the readiness of the guard force cannot be judged on two exercises.

The Project on Government Oversight report said the training exercises, among other criticisms, are unrealistic, poorly planned and may favor the lab force.

Paper: Santa Fe New Mexican, The (NM)
Title: Report claims security at LANL is porous
Author: WENDY WALSH
Date: October 10, 2001
Section: Main

In October 2000, mock terrorists at Los Alamos National Laboratories stole nuclear materials that would have endangered significant parts of New Mexico and Colorado if they had been detonated. Three years earlier, a U.S. special-forces team used a Home Depot garden cart to haul from the lab enough weapons-grade uranium for several nuclear weapons.

An independent report, "U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex: Security at Risk," released Tuesday, highlights these two failed security drills at Los Alamos, calling them examples of vulnerabilities at Department of Energy nuclear-weapons sites.

In security exercises throughout the United States, DOE security forces have failed to protect facilities against mock terrorists more than 50 percent of the time, the report states.

The report includes information from more than 12 DOE whistle-blowers, according to The Project on Government Oversight, a politically independent, nonprofit watchdog organization based in Washington, D.C.

The report quotes "Science at its Best, Security at its Worst," a similarly critical 1999 report written by former U.S. Sen. Warren Rudman, and lists Peter Stockton, special assistant to former DOE Secretary Bill Richardson from 1999 to 2001, as a paid consultant.

A number of groups, however, including the DOE's Office of Independent Oversight, have said exercise artificialities make security forces appear to be far more capable than they actually are, the report states.

In a May 2000 DOE Inspector General report cited by the group, about 30 percent of LANL security personnel said they were pressured by supervisors to change or "mitigate" security self-assessments.

Also, when the Los Alamos security surveys reached DOE oversight personnel in Albuquerque, oversight personnel changed some of the ratings in 1998 and 1999 without providing a documented reason, the inspector general's report states.

Tuesday's report criticizes the security at Los Alamos' Technical Area 18, where scientists conduct nuclear experiments and several small nuclear reactors and tons of uranium and plutonium are housed. The site, at the bottom of a canyon, is also next to a public highway.

In 1999, a DOE security team recommended that LANL move TA-18 because of its vulnerability to terrorist attacks, and in April 2000, Richardson ordered TA-18 shut down, the report states.

However, LANL officials did not think security vulnerabilities were serious enough to shut down the facility, and Richardson ordered a study on the subject instead, Roark said.

Deliberations are continuing, Roark said.

In November 2000, former National Nuclear Security Administration Director John Gordon sent a letter to LANL Director John Browne threatening to shut down TA-18 after mock forces gained access to nuclear-reactor fuel during a security exercise, the report states.

Officials have considered moving TA-18 for years, but the site continues to operate as usual, according to Kevin Roark, LANL spokesman.

LANL officials are confident security is more than adequate at the site, Roark said. "The protective forces are well trained, well equipped and highly capable of defending Technical Area 18," Roark said.

Roark said he read the report and found it "highly inflammatory."

LANL security experienced problems during some training exercises, but the officers are not expected to do a perfect job every time, Roark said.

"They are opportunities for learning," Roark said of the exercises.

In the past three years, LANL officials said they have improved security immensely and LANL security forces' record of protecting against mock attacks is "much, much better" than 50 percent, Roark said.

Roark said he could not disclose the actual percentage, saying it was classified information.

"Of course, some classification is legitimate, but a good deal of information is classified because it is embarrassing," the report states.

Cyber-security has also improved after a computer hard drive was lost at the lab in the summer of 2000, Roark said.

"There's a security help desk, and it used to be the place people called if they couldn't get their computer to boot up. Now they call and ask, 'Should I send this e-mail?'" Roark said. "There's a lot more awareness."

The report recommends the nation's nuclear materials, spread out at 10 sites, be consolidated at Kirtland Air Force Base and the Device Assembly Facility at the Nevada Test Site.

The report also recommends that the DOE increase the amount of money spent on security.

Bureaucratic back-patting and an inability to listen to criticism are the causes of security problems, the report states.

"The DOE bureaucracy portrays facilities as being secure and impervious to terrorists and spies when, in fact, they are not," the report states.

Greg Mello, director of the **Los Alamos Study Group**, said the report's significance depends on how much citizens want to defend the nation's nuclear materials.

"The lab is supposed to make us feel secure, not more vulnerable," Mello said.

Author: WENDY WALSH

Section: Main

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