

One Last Shot

by jeff drinnan

Although the future for Three Mile Island seems bleak -- multiple court injunctions, a badly damaged reactor and less than ideal public relations -- officials there are not ready to throw in the towel.

According to R.I. Diculous, public relations representative at TMI information center, Metropolitan Edison has plans which will pull itself out of its apparent slump and will restore power.

"To do this, explained Diculous, "our ideologies must go full steam ahead, unhindered by the whims of various individuals. As public relations representative, I foster positive thinking and inform the public so as to help discipline the chaos that abounds all around us."

"To that end, Diculous continued, "I plan to inform the public at large through pamphlets, films, through talks, such as the one I'm having with you now and through the media. We have to rectify the media, however, since discordant elements in our society have rendered it ineffective. Even our surrogates, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, have not been completely diligent in conforming to the rules of properly informing the public."

Diculous plans to authorize public relations people to insure that the media conforms to nuclear doctrine and to keep it free of Bolshevik influence.

"Our people would collect all publications related to nuclear power and take it to a committee for screening," Diculous said. "To deal with heretical material, we will employ people to file it and systematically throw it down a chute, where it will disintegrate in an inferno. We plan to have the inferno operating by 1984," Diculous said.

"Do to efforts inimical to us, Diculous continued, "people have lost faith in us, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. People should remember what we and our surrogates are doing in this country. For us to be more effective, the Susquehanna River and the surrounding community should be entrusted to us to provide living space. Geopolitics is a facet conducive to our goals."

Diculous believes that the community, like the nuclear family, must follow its proper function. Each part should orbit around the center.

"Sometimes a member must be sacrificed for the good of the whole. This is important for the survival of the species," Diculous said.

TMI plans to open tours and a campground for Boy Scouts and other youth groups on the island.

"Forming their character will be our responsibility as we will organize a Youth For nukes program. The youth will be out eyes and ears in the community, watching and listening for Bolshevism," stated Diculous.

"We are proud to serve our community," Diculous said. "Before Met Ed took over TMI, the community was plagued with inflation, unemployment and depression. The island was but a haven for farmers who grew corn and tomatoes. Can a democracy produce this?" exclaimed Diculous, pointing to the cooling towers.

"Met. Ed. is deliberating on an emblem for the cooling tower. I have suggested using the decals which were popular in Germany in the 1930's. It would be a lovely touch of nostalgia," Diculous said, grinning like the Cheshire Cat.

To unify efforts of communication and to avoid creating a tower of Babel, the Minister of Language (the NRC), has drawn up an encyclopedia of nuclear terminology. Below are a few excerpts from this publication:

Acceptable amount of radiation:

The amount of radiation a particular community will accept at a particular time and place.

The amount varies with respect to temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction and political climate. In the event that more radioactive material is given to the community than they will accept, it is put in doggie bags for later occasions.

An acceptable level is calculated on the half life, which uses the amount of cats (or cat) which could be killed by radiation as a standard. One cat death would register 1.8 cat half-lives (on the cat atropic scale), since a cat has nine lives. (See half-life).

Half Life

The potential malfunctioning of half a person life, or 3.5 cat half-lives, do to an event. (See event). A half life could be prevented by getting out of the right side of bed and keeping your sunny side up, as people did during the Great Depression. A half-life is sometimes used to treat schizophrenia.

Event

When in the course of human proceedings, a radioactive anomaly occurs. This is sometimes referred to as an irregularity. It can be remedied by dropping a large bottle of Kaopectate down a nuclear plants cooling tower. Stable:

When one speaks of a nuclear plants stability, one is talking about its emotional state. If a plant becomes unstable, it must be taken to a

psychiatrist. If a psychiatrist is not available, some people gently talk to a nuclear plant, reassuring it that they are not angry at it for past events; to restore its proper constitution.

Low Level Radiation

Radiation which stays no higher than three feet above the ground. To survive low level radiation, one must remain three feet off the ground.

An alternative to evacuation, therefore is wearing stilts. People should go about their business as usual, going to stores, to college, eating meals, while sitting at the table (provided it is over three feet high) and driving cars (sitting on the roof of course). If stilts are not available, children are evacuated first, starting with those who haven't learned to walk, first; since these rug rats spend most of their time crawling on the floor.

High Level Radiation:

Radiation which starts from three feet above the ground and goes up. To survive high level radiation, people must duck under the three foot level. The rug rat has a distinct advantage for survival here, and the rest of the population during high level events would do well to emulate them, eating meals on the floor, crawling to stores, to college, etc. In the case of rug rats, while high chairs are useful during low level events, they should be disregarded during high level events.

Addend:

By using the methods described above, someone coming into a community would know that a nuclear event is taking place. This eliminates the need for electronic communications and is a more efficient way to alert the populous. Seeing an entire community crawling about or walking on stilts would indicate what sort of event is taking place.

How I spent my summer vacation

On the first day of summer vacation, I unpacked. On the second day of summer vacation, I unpacked. An on the third day of summer vacation, I unpacked some more. On the fourth day I started to repack, and the fifth, and the sixth. I wish I could say I rested on the seventh day, but I did not. Instead, I jumped in my car and headed for my summer job as archery director at Camp Tuckahoe, the summer camp for York-Adams Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.

One might say that I got closer to God this summer. My assigned living space was a storage room of the camp chapel, which turned out to be a mouse and cricket infested hovel.

One of the first things I did upon arrival was check out the "archery range" where I would work for the next seven weeks. The archery range turned out to be a small clearing in the woods with knee-high weeds, dozens of snakes and 24 bales of straw dumped in the middle.

While setting up the range I got a brief, but stinging, reminder that camp can be dangerous when I stepped on a nest of hornets. This was my first, but by no means my last, encounter with stinging insects. One week later I slept through my alarm clock and woke up at 7:55 a.m. (breakfast was at 8 a.m.). I jumped into my uniform, sprinted out of my humble abode, locked the door, took two steps, and got stung in the eye by a yellow jacket. It's a nice way

to start off a day. I recommend that everyone try it sometime.

Then there was the day I arrived at my 9 a.m. archery class to face angry students. I don't know why they were mad. Maybe they didn't like the breakfast. Or maybe it was related to the fact that I didn't show up until 9:50 a.m. that day (I slept until 9:45).

One thing I learned this summer was empathy with junior high school teachers. Have you ever tried to keep order while simultaneously teaching archery to a group of 35 eleven-fourteen year-olds with the help of a lone assistant who thinks a bow is something girls put in their hair?

There were some good experiences, though. The clear blue skies of the afternoon, fiery sunsets over the mountain, star-filled skies at night, swarms of gnats around your face for a constant source of protein, ninety degree days with one hundred per cent humidity to keep your weight down. And we can't forget the oxygen producing trees which liked to jump into the trail at night when your flashlight batteries wore out.

Things are not always what they seem. It was a good summer. It was a fantastic experience. But it's great to be back from nature and in my own environment again.

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If a genius is the next thing to an idiot, then a good leader is the next thing to a derelict.