

Highacres Collegian

HAZLETON CAMPUS PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Nuke Plant Raises Controversy

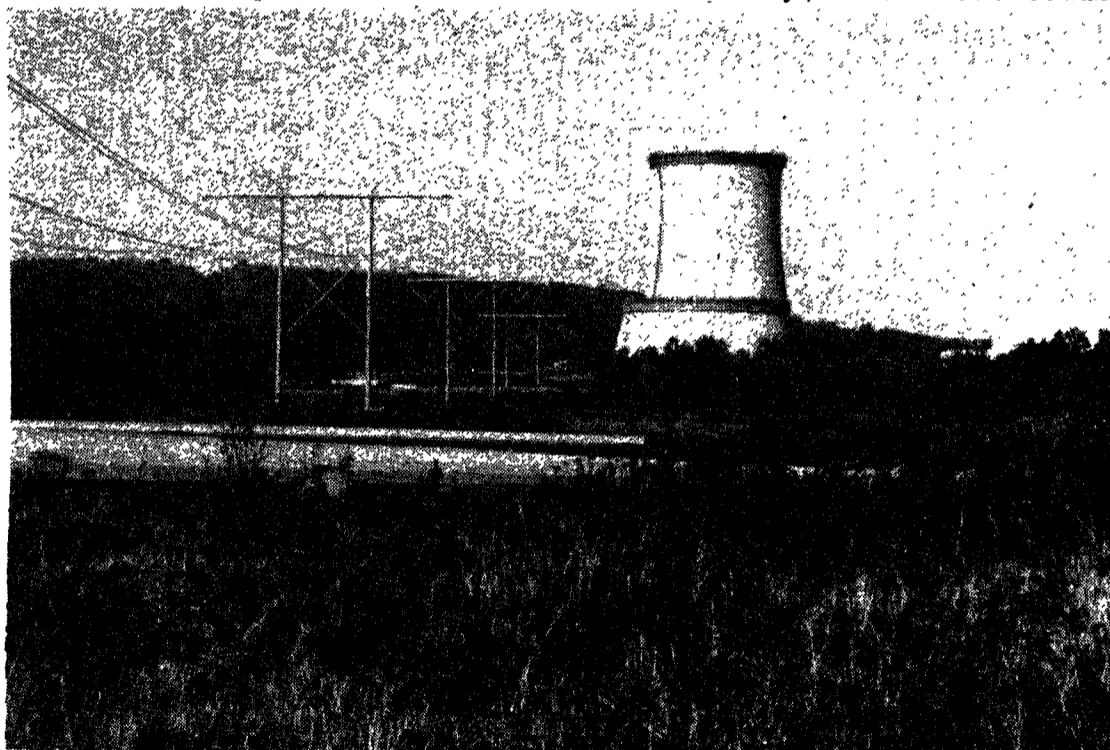
The construction of a nuclear power plant in the Berwick area has led to a great deal of controversy. The Pennsylvania Power and Light Company has attempted to inform the public of the safety of the power plant. The local inhabitants, however, have found little comfort in the electric company's words. The fear in most cases seems to have been instilled by the Three Mile Island incident. The Susquehanna

materials and a labor force, are also located in this area. Finally, this site is located at the crossroads of the PP&L Power distribution system.

The owners of this 2.4 billion dollar project are ninety percent PP&L and ten percent Allegheny Electric Cooperative. July 1, 1981 is the date set for the first reactor to start operation. October 2, 1982 is the date set for the second reactor to start operation. While

bank of the Susquehanna River to collect samples from the environment before and after the plant goes into operation.

The protesters feel that there is still the danger of a nuclear accident occurring in this area. They feel that although the technology has been developed to a fairly safe level, the chances of human error are still there. A protester of the plant, Mr. Fox, says, "What I'm concerned with



The Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant near Berwick, Pa. is located approximately 10 miles Northwest of Highacres Campus. The plant's cooling towers can be seen from the foreground. (Photo by Rick Eister and Tom Fellin)

Nuclear Power Plant is located five miles northeast of Berwick and ten miles northwest of The Hazleton Highacres Campus. There are several reasons why this site was chosen. First, The Susquehanna River can provide the water necessary for cooling purposes. A solid, stable base is also needed due to the tremendous weight of the plant. This is provided by the two-thousand feet of solid rock located beneath that area. Roads and railways, to bring in

building their power plant, the electric companies are also studying the possible effects it will have on the environment. Since 1971, the Radiation Management Corporation, a Philadelphia consulting firm has been analyzing the food, water, and air of the Berwick area. They will be keeping constant records of the levels of radioactivity in the area. Also, Ichthyological Associates Inc. of Ithaca, N.Y., have set up a laboratory and collection station on the west

is the actual usage of the nuclear fuel and the waste moving all around the highways. They have already had accidents. The storage plants are notorious. Two of them have been shut down in the last three weeks by governors in their state for leaking radiation. There is no way in the world that they can do this properly. They have not exhibited any history, whatsoever, of doing it properly."

Collegian Interviews Ron Gatski

Editor's Note:

Ronald Gatski, Pennsylvania State Representative from the Hazleton area, recently discussed with a member of the Highacres Collegian staff several issues of major importance to not only students at Highacres, but also to students across the country. The U.S. educational system, the drinking age, nuclear energy, and the Presidential election of 1980 were the major topics discussed. Mr. Gatski is Vice-Principal of West Hazleton High School and is currently serving his second term in the PA House of Representatives.

Collegian:

Approximately one-third of this year's freshman class at the Highacres Campus was found to have a deficiency in English or Math. This is only an example of the situation around the country. Does this indicate a major problem in the U.S. educational system or is there a problem in another area?

Gatski:

I really don't know. I was unaware that there was a problem.

Collegian:

Most colleges are finding out that a frighteningly large number of entering students do have a

deficiency in English, and they're worried about it. These students must take basic English courses before they can continue with their college work.

Gatski:

Very possibly. I assume that you can place some of the blame on the school system. I've been teaching twenty years and in those twenty years the system has changed so much. I think that many years ago there was a more structured form. We dealt strictly with the 3R's, and I think maybe it may have been better as far as at least getting the proper background. Through these years I've seen our curriculums change so vastly that I don't know if we're putting enough emphasis on the so called 3 R's of education.

Collegian:

In other words, going back to the 3 R's may be a good idea?

Gatski:

Right. Again, I'm not sure where we can lay the blame. I've graduated from the Hazleton School District, and I've been teaching here, and I don't know. I haven't seen any change in the teachers. I don't think the teachers have lost any dedication. I don't know where

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