

Nuclear coverup underway

KITCHNER-WATERLOO(CUP) — The U.S. government is attempting to coverup the health effects of the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island, the editor of *Harrowsmith* magazine has charged.

Thomas Pawlick, who spoke recently in Waterloo, said the American officials have made every attempt to prevent information from reaching the public, showing a link between 430 infant deaths and the Three Mile accident.

He also said the commercial media and the nuclear industry were instrumental in the cover-up.

A similar cover-up on a smaller scale has also occurred in Kingston, Ontario, where government officials refused to release information after a plume of radiation from a nuclear reactor in New York state drifted over the city in 1975 and 1976.

According to Dr. Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiation physics at the University of Pittsburgh, the number of infant deaths in Pennsylvania almost doubled in the four months after the accident. In the northeastern United States, over the same period, there were 430 more infant deaths than would normally be expected. The greatest increase in infant deaths occurred in areas closest to the nuclear reactor.

The fetus is most vulnerable to radiation poisoning during its fifth and sixth months of development, according to Sternglass. Thus the babies most affected by the Three Mile Island accident would have been born three to four

months later. It is a "strange coincidence" that infant deaths were also the highest three to four months after the accident, said Pawlick.

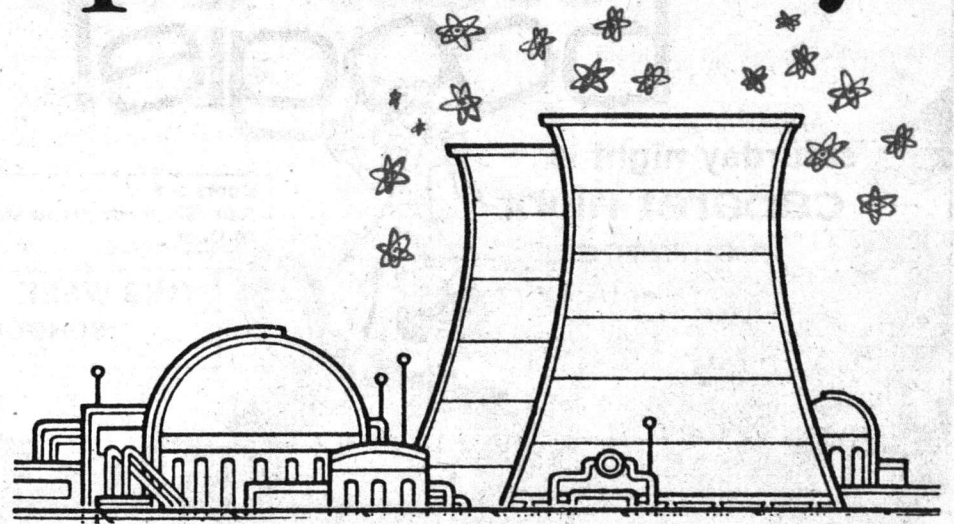
Pawlick also found a sharp increase in infant deaths in Kingston after a large release of radiation from the Nine Mile Point nuclear reactor in New York state. Winds could have carried the radiation across Lake Ontario to Kingston, only 50 miles away.

But the Ontario Environment Ministry refused to say how much radiation had reached Kingston. Both *Harrowsmith* magazine and the *Kingston Week Standard* newspaper "badgered the government for weeks and weeks" without success.

The cover-up by the American government after the accident at Three Mile Island was more extensive, according to Pawlick. It involved the firing of Dr. MacLeod, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health; a printing error in the U.S. Vital Statistics; contradictions of published medical journals; refusal to carry out investigations; and deliberate attempts to confuse the public with statistics.

Pawlick said the nuclear industry in the United States is so influential that it has forced both the government and the press to cover-up the health effects of the accident.

He searched through newspapers and magazines in the eastern United



States and "found absolutely no reference in *Time* or *Newsweek* or the *New York Times* to people dying at Three Mile Island. We called a large number of environmental groups in the States, even anti-nuclear groups and none of them knew anything about anyone dying at Three Mile Island."

Dr. Gordon MacLeod, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Health at time of the accident, urged "full public disclosure of all the facts known by the state government about the accident, particularly all details dealing with public health."

MacLeod was immediately fired. "He was replaced by a man who is closely tied to the public utilities in Pennsylvania. He, needless to say, has had very little to say about the public health effects of Three Mile Island," says Pawlick.

After his dismissal, MacLeod revealed that the Department of Health had found a marked upsurge in infants born with thyroid disorders in the Pennsylvania counties downwind from the reactor. Thyroid disorders can be caused by excess radiation, and may result in infant deformities, mental retardation or death.

No doubt Jack the Ripper excused himself...

the Gateway

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1981

...on the grounds that it was human nature.

A.A. Milne



photo Ray Giguere

This strangely dressed man dropped in on the engineers' tug-of-war in Quad Monday at noon. We thought he fit right in.

Draft dilemma

U of A student faced by Catch-22

by Mike Walker

If Gunnar Blodgett entered the United States today, he could face a \$10,000 fine or five years in jail.

Uncle Sam wants Gunnar Blodgett. But he hasn't registered for the draft and isn't planning to.

Blodgett, a U of A science student and dual Canadian-U.S. citizen, has lived in Canada since he was three, though he was born in the United States. Over Christmas he heard a radio broadcast asking all Americans born in 1962 and living in Alberta to report to the American consulate in Calgary to register for the draft.

Blodgett isn't interested, though. He says he considers himself fully Canadian, and he would rather fight for the Canadian army in a war than the American.

"I don't want to be an American," he said last week. But he couldn't renounce his American citizenship until he turned 18 a few months ago. Now that he is eligible for the draft registration though, he is under suspicion of draft evasion if he attempts to renounce his citizenship.

The Consulate would not give either Blodgett or his father, U of A English prof Dr. Ted Blodgett, any information over the telephone; both were invited to Calgary to discuss the situation.

"The vice-consul (Dr. Josephine Patterson) said (to the elder Blodgett) bring him down here and we'll talk to him", said the younger Blodgett. "We don't want you to influence your son," she said. "She made a point of not telling me at all what it was about on the phone," said the father.

So, on Friday, both Blodgetts went to Calgary to speak with Patterson.

Unfortunately, their visit was no

more fruitful than their telephone calls. Gunnar remains an American citizen, and still hasn't registered for the draft. The registration deadline was Friday, making him "a felon, I suspect," his father said.

"It was a little bit of a runaround, to say the least," Gunnar said Sunday.

His father agrees. "I had a rather difficult time with her (Patterson)," he said.

"I understood we could both be present during the interview, but when we got there, she said I couldn't be there."

The meeting ended with Patterson refusing to allow Gunnar to renounce his citizenship, and telling him to think it over and return in a month.

Neither Blodgett is entirely sure even now how Gunnar can extricate himself. And the *Gateway* couldn't find anything out from the consulate in a day of trying Monday.

This much, however, is known:

Gunnar Blodgett can renounce his citizenship at any time, since he is 18.

But since he is not yet 21, the American consul has discretion over his renunciation. In other words, a consular officer can refuse to allow him to renounce, if he is deemed not capable of deciding.

Even if he is allowed to renounce, this does not exempt him from "special service" any time he enters the U.S. "Special Service" seems to mean military service, though Gunnar says Patterson "wouldn't clarify it to me."

So, Gunnar Blodgett remains an American citizen and, at least until he gets another chance to prove himself next month, a fugitive from the law.

His father notes that he "pointed this out to (Patterson) and she said 'That's all right' ..."