

Uranium moratorium up in air

by Wayne Groszko

Some new mines could be opening soon in Nova Scotia — but not the kind people might like.

Uranium is the fuel for nuclear fission reactors which generate electricity, as well as the starting material for nuclear weapons. There is a moratorium on the mining of uranium in Nova Scotia, and the moratorium will expire on January 30, 1995.

The provincial government will then decide whether or not to renew the moratorium. If not, uranium mining will be permitted to occur for the first time in over a decade.

The first step in uranium mining is exploration to find bodies of uranium ore, which are rocks with a higher concentration of uranium in them than surrounding ones. According to a 1982 report on uranium exploration published by the Chamber of Mineral Resources of Nova Scotia, there are some areas of Nova Scotia which are believed to have

uranium ore bodies.

Even in a body of rock which is higher in uranium, such as uranium ore, only about 0.1 percent of the rock is actually uranium, so in order to produce one kilogram of uranium with a purity of 90 percent, about 900 kilograms of rock have to be mined and processed. During processing, the rock is crushed and the uranium is extracted using chemical solvents. The leftover 99.9% becomes a form of waste called "tailings."

The tailings are in the form of a slurry, which is put into an engineered pond, usually near the mine site. Due to the nature of the ore, the tailings contain radioactive elements such as radium 226 and thorium 230 in concentrations which are higher than normal. Because of this, radium 226 has leaked from tailings ponds near many uranium mines and reached ground water and surface water.

Radium also decays to produce radon gas which is emitted from the

surface of piles of tailings.

There are several other concerns about uranium mining which form the basis of the moratorium.

One concern is due to the fact that uranium is a starting material for making plutonium, which is used in the production of nuclear weapons.

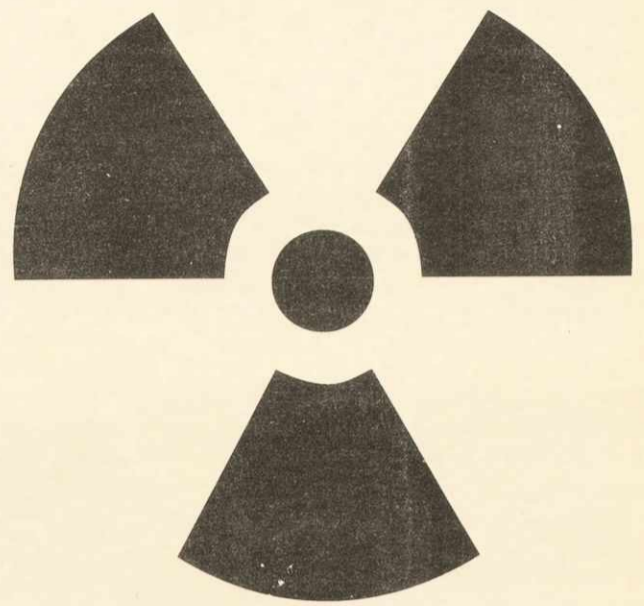
Although Canada is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, there is no way to prevent uranium which is exported from Canada from being used in nuclear weapons.

There are also concerns which relate to the entire nuclear energy cycle, including the problem of what to do with the radioactive wastes which are produced in nuclear reactors.

The Ecology Action Centre has mounted a campaign to convince the provincial government to make the moratorium on uranium mining permanent. They are asking people to write to their MLA, to Don Downe, Minister of Natural Re-

sources, and to Robert Harrison, Minister of Environment before January 30. If you want more infor-

mation you can call the Ecology Action Centre at 454-7828, or send email (ip-eac@cfm.cs.dal.ca).



Snakey culvert

by Barbara Müller

In Manitoba, thousands of snakes have slithered to their demise, crossing highway 17 in their annual migration from snake dens to nearby marshland, 130 km north of Winnipeg.

According to the Ottawa Citizen (May 31, 1994): "So natural resources staff are trying to coerce the snakes into using an underground culvert — dubbed the 'snunnel' — rather than the overland route... The snakes will be funnelled into the culvert by a half-metre high, kilometre-long mesh barrier in the ditch on either side of the road.

"It's been demonstrated that the snakes will follow along a line if they encounter a barrier," said natural resources employee Angus Carr.

Because snakes prefer the sun-warmed road to a cool, damp cul-

vert, a propane heater will also be installed in the underground route. If it works, a power heating system and additional culvert crossings and additional culvert crossings may be considered.

Carr added that natural resources workers will also carry a few snakes through the snunnel to lay a scent trail for the rest to follow.

"We know they tend to follow scent, but it's still pretty speculative right now. We don't really understand how they navigate, so we don't know what will work and what won't."

Recycling bins unused

by Jon MacPherson

VICTORIA (CUP) — Let's face it. There are a lot of things students are supposed to do.

Students know they should probably spend their nights studying at the library, but actually end up at the cafeteria eating stale nachos and drinking stale beer.

They should probably get over to the sports complex to work out, and try to get in shape. Instead they order more nachos.

They should definitely go into the Mac lab and type up that term paper a little early. But alas, they end up at the cafeteria again, playing Super Punch Out.

It is no wonder students are letting a lot of the little things which

they should be doing slip by. Little things like recycling.

Early in the fall semester a member of the janitorial staff at the University of Victoria, working mostly in the student union building and residences, was asked to clean up the mess around some blue boxes.

What he found was that people not only had not bothered to sort their recycling material into the proper bins, but had stuffed in non-recyclable material — garbage to you and me.

In a single bin, marked 'glass only,' he said he found "old shoes, paper, cans, food waste — everything." The janitor said all four bins — more than 50 kilograms of waste — had to be shovelled out and sent to the dump.

"Every day I seem to waste about an hour picking stuff from one bin to another or just bagging it up for the dump," he said.

Since it is not in their contract, janitorial staff could refuse to help the recycling projects around campus. But for now they do what they can out of "sympathy and support for the cause," said the janitor.

Maria Miller, UVic's recycling coordinator, said the slack response by UVic students to existing bins around campus worries her.

"Contamination" — garbage or other material which destroys the paper in bins — wastes the time of those involved and simply creates waste, she said.



A Natural Choice for your Future!

Be a licensed Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine.

Join the health care evolution. Naturopathic Doctors diagnose, treat, and prevent illness using basic medical sciences, homeopathy, botanical and traditional Chinese medicine, lifestyle counseling, nutrition, and more. Canada's only recognized course in naturopathy is the four year, full time program at **The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine** in Toronto.

Applicants must have completed three years of university studies, with credit in General Biology, General Chemistry, and Organic Chemistry. Applications for Sept. 1995 are due Feb. 28. Space is limited. For more information, please call or write:

The Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine



60 Bert Ave., Etobicoke, Ontario M8Y 3C7
Telephone (416) 251-5261 ext. 55

Splatshot Play FREE on 425-1010 your B-Day !!

CRUISE JOBS

Students Needed!

Earn up to \$2,000+ per month working for Cruise Ships or Travel-Tour Companies. World Travel (Hawaii, Mexico, the Caribbean, etc.). Seasonal and Full-Time employment available. No experience necessary. For more information call:

(206) 634-0468 ext. C40012



AUDITIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THEATRE TRAINING IN NEW YORK CITY

- CHOICE OF PROGRAMS OFFERING THE STUDY OF ACTING FOR THE THEATRE, FILM AND TELEVISION, MUSICAL THEATRE AND DANCE
- FACULTY COMPRISING PROFESSIONAL ARTISTS
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENT BODY/STUDENT HOUSING PROVIDED

AUDITION LOCATIONS

TORONTO March 4-5, 1995
VANCOUVER March 11, 1995



THE AMERICAN MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC ACADEMY

2109 Broadway
New York, New York 10023

1-800-367-7908 OR 212-787-5300

AMDA is an equal opportunity institution.