

**fission fragments**

# Nuclear power industry luminated

There are many important facts about the nuclear power industry that the public is not aware of. This is, in part, due to governments and corporations that see it in their selfish interests to keep the people in the dark. Because the Gazette and an increasing number of people are becoming aware of the dangers involved in the nuclear power industry there will be a new column entitled "Fission Fragments" in each issue. Each week different press clippings will be reprinted in the Gazette, press clippings that illuminate the seemier side of nuclear power. It should be noted that the nuclear power industry is different than nuclear research and that this column will be concerned with the former.

If anyone has any "Fission Fragments" they would like to see published please send them to the Dalhousie Gazette, 3rd Floor, SUB.

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--letter by D.R. Inglis to Science and Public Affairs (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists), 1970

Mr. GRAVEL. ...I was startled to learn that Dr. Eugene Saenger, who had been using terminal cancer patients to conduct ... experiments for the Department of Defense, is a member of the National Council on

Radiation Protection... which has been recommending radiation guidelines on "permissible doses" for the whole public....

The patients ... were not told that whole-body exposure to radiation would cause them considerable discomfort ... nor were they told that the Defense Department was buying the information about their reactions ... It is not clear whether ... the patients were told that the radiation treatment might accelerate their deaths....

When the (100 to 300 Rad) radiation exposure comes, those patients who can sit up are seated... It is thought that a healthy person has only a 50% chance of survival after 300 Rads....

At doses between 150 and 200 Rads, about two-thirds of "our patients" vomit. Vomiting may start about an hour or two after irradiation, and "subside" 11 hours later....

Despite the fact that their research has been going on for 11 years ... The only complete accounts have (gone) to the Pentagon.

Congressional Record (1971)

... it was indeed an error to say that the Chalk River (Ontario) reactor was "destroyed" .... only the core was. Neither was the prototype breeder reactor near Detroit completely destroyed by the far more serious accident there. About three years sufficed to get it back in shape, during the first months of which the engineers really worried whether the start of dismantling might render disastrously critical the unknown melted-down mass of uranium, plus the plutonium ....

-- Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists (1970)

grounds of sexual orientation. In other words gays cannot protest job firings or refusals for housing given on the basis of their sexual orientation. The law simply turns a blind eye to discrimination on this ground.

Changes are occurring but very slowly; in Toronto, for example, the Toronto City Council has passed legislation protecting gays for employment and housing discrimination within the city limits. The Ontario Human Rights Commission says it will listen to gay complaints but so far has not been terribly co-operative. Saskatchewan is the only Canadian province seriously considering the protection of gay rights with legislation.

G.A.E. at both local and national levels is trying to get changes made in Canadian law. During the hearings on the federal government's green paper on Immigration last spring G.A.E. presented briefs to the committee and the committee's recommendations reflect some attitude changes. Under present immigration laws gays cannot immigrate to Canada. The Gay Alliance feels that these laws may soon change. If so, it will mark the first time the federal government has shown any sympathy to homosexuals.

Other legal changes that must be made range from housing policies to the sexual age of consent. The C.H.M.C. will not provide mortgages for homosexuals, the sexual age of consent is lower for heterosexuals than homosexuals, the Canadian Armed Forces will not hire homosexuals, the federal civil service has a stringent policy against hiring homosexuals, homosexuals cannot marry, homosex-

Prior to this reporter's arrival (at the major U.S. reactor testing station) Leeper said he reminded his senior staff of a standing rule that (they) were free to voice personal opinions, but ... "we cannot guarantee that after some time has elapsed that he will still be in the same position. We would, however, make every effort to find him a suitable opening in this organization ... or allow him to look beyond the company."

-- Science (1972)

... investigating some puzzling damage -- a few analysts prefer the word "incredible" -- sustained by hundreds of fuel rods in the core of a large nuclear power reactor ... bowed, cracked and partially crushed rods which are said to look as if they had been "squeezed in a vise" .... similar fuel damage has occurred recently, during the course of normal operation, in at least four other reactors--three in the United States and one in Switzerland. ... "The choice was either to let the plant run or shut down the industry," one AEC source said. "We're playing the risk game."

-- Science (1972)

... a number of laboratory workers have come to suspect that the AEC has tried to suppress discussion of reactor safety issues, not only before the public but within the nuclear profession as well.

--Science (1972)

When one of these monsters is threatening to arrive at the end of your road you try to find out what it will mean for you.

-- The Sunday Times (1975)

## Gays oppressed - Mail Star singled out

by M.P. MacKenzie

What is it really like being a homosexual in Canada in 1975 or more particularly, what is it like to be gay in Halifax, Nova Scotia. No matter which geographical location you choose - the general or the specific - the situation is poor at best. Discrimination against gays is evident everywhere from housing through to federal government employment policies.

There is one bright spot on the Halifax horizon at least. Gay Alliance for Equality, which opened its doors three years ago, reorganized this past fall and provides information, counselling and referrals for homosexuals (both male and female) in the Metro area. Perhaps one of the most important functions of the organization is providing moral support to human beings who normally are the subject of discrimination, harassment, and personal pressure from all sources.

In an interview with two members of G.A.E. the Gazette learned that homosexuals are probably the most oppressed group in Canada today. They have no legal rights in areas

the "straight" world takes for granted and are constantly harrassed for their sexual orientation to the point where beatings are not unusual. The organization itself has problems getting its information out to the general public - most of the media in Halifax will not print or broadcast their public announcements about meetings, etc. and will not even allow G.A.E. to buy advertising space. The Mail Star for instance will not print the words "gay" or "homosexual" in the paper unless they happen to be part of a news story. Things are a little better this year than last, CJCH will now allow GAE to air ads on radio but CBC still maintains a policy against it.

The legal rights which most Canadians take for granted regarding housing, employment, etc. often do not apply to homosexuals. Discrimination against gays is a normal occurrence in our society but gays cannot protest it through any legal body. The various provincial Human Rights acts in Canada as well as the federal Human Rights Act forbid discrimination on the grounds of sex but not on the

## SMU's new library exhibits modern gizmos

by D. Moulton

St. Mary's has not only opened a new library but opened one containing a \$25,000 tattle tape system. Tattle tape is a system that guarantees a cutback in book loss. Although the system is not 100% foolproof St. Mary's expects the system to pay for itself in three years due to their reduction in book loss.

St. Mary's Library loses about 1% annually through people not returning books, stealing books, or losing books. Although this figure sounds minimal, when it is realized that St. Mary's houses 150,000 books, volumes costing from \$20-25, the loss is substantial. At that rate St. Mary's lost last year 700 volumes at a cost to them of \$10,000.

According to Ms. Christine McGillivray the library has tried having a security desk with commissionaires and found it to be "absolutely useless because they weren't checking the books or brief cases or they just did a spot check."

St. Mary's felt they couldn't

continue with the old methods so they brought in this new IBM security system which they hope will pay for itself. Dalhousie on the other hand, when asked about tattle tape felt it to be expensive and unnecessary.

Mrs. Cooke, head librarian at the Killiam, felt that they lost a very small number of books. She felt that this was primarily due to the search system set up at the circulation desk. Although no statistical data is available on the number of books lost Ms. Cooke feels that those books most likely to be stolen are the ones in popular demand and as most of these come back their book loss can't be that great.

The Killam Library houses approximately 500,000 books, not including documents, microfilm and other listings and publications. They employ four commissionaires who work on a rotating basis, and this they feel is adequate for insuring against substantial book loss.