



Yucca Mountain flaws are obvious

There are many reasons Nevada should not have 'The Dump'

PART II
by Lee Richards

Editor's note: Last issue, Richards presented his concern over the scientific community handling the Yucca Mountain project. In this second installment, he presents historical facts among others to justify his claim they're doing a poor job.

In the 1960s, nuclear testing, now conducted underground, had gone from unspeakable to ridiculous as the DOE spent millions of dollars in attempts to excavate canals and recover shale oil by using nuclear devices in a project known as Plowshare (get it?).

Yet they concluded, as many had before the \$138 million expenditure, that radiation contamination from the explosions rendered the final products unusable for thousands of years—all providing proof the scientific capability to intrude into the environment far outstrips our knowledge of the consequences, and every environ-

mental incursion, whatever the benefits, have a cost.

But what of those who "understand" such matters as radionuclide migration, geologic faulting or health physics? They have been let alone too long, and the results have been disastrous.

The human cost of the development of nuclear power is not exactly known, but what is known, and widely acknowledged, is that a number of serious hazards to human health—cancer and genetic defects—are instigated by radiation.

There is no question

imaginations thought there would eventually be over 10,000 of them in the United States, not to mention an equal number in Russia. And no one knows whether or not Yucca Mountain will last its required 10,000 years, or only be required to contain the projected 70,000 tons of nuclear waste (instead of 10 years from now being required to contain 140,000 tons).

Yet, neither nuclear power plants, warheads, or nuclear waste repositories exist apart from the thin, dynamic fabric that envelops our planet.

As the power derived from the splitting of the atom impinges more and more on our fragile ecosystem, as it inevitably must, one begins to

realize the "new" technology is incompetent and something that must be governed, not by scientists but by morality—if we are to survive. Remember that when the pro-nuke propaganda starts to hit the airwaves.

Richards is a part-time student

When nuclear weapons were first being developed, no one in their wildest imaginations thought there would eventually be over 10,000 of them in the United States.

that the power of nuclear fission/fusion is irresistible from a scientific standpoint. This "new" technology is seductive in its abilities to vaporize islands and send electricity surging out of power plants.

When nuclear weapons were first being developed, no one in their wildest



Illustration by Robert Sundin

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cartoon undermines the American worker

Dear Editor:

The pro-freetrade cartoon that appeared in the Opinion section of *The Yellin' Rebel*, Sept. 12, illustrating the "laziness of the American worker" is both untrue and degrading, as well as being completely inappropriate for a "working class/middle class" university such as UNLV.

To champion the cause

of bureaucratic capitalism and the expansion of oligarchy in America is to slap the face of many hard working Americans. Furthermore, to confuse elitist capitalism with democracy is to do a serious injustice to most Americans.

The preamble of the United States Constitution begins with We the People. The "people," the majority of us who work forty hard hours

a week punching a time clock in an era of declining prosperity, economic recession, unreasonable child care expenses, astronomical health care costs for our families, marginal financial assistance for college, steadily increasing crime along with the declining value of the dollar, object to the proposed capitalistic expansion that will take away our jobs, our homes, and our already de-

clining standard of living.

This freetrade agreement is not about free trade, it is about the wealth of a few imposing a further deterioration on the standard of living of the many. Where in this constitution did we sign on for the rich to get richer, and the rest to struggle harder and harder for less and less? Do you really think we are lazy or asking too much to see that we and our posterity have a better way of life?

I am ashamed my school paper would print such a cartoon. Especially when the majority of us work hard as well as go to school, pay all of our educational expenses, and raise families.

Go ahead, tell me I'm lazy!

*Kim Beach
Senior, history*

Boulder Dan and Dipstik Duck by Ray Collins



Some people say Clarence Thomas isn't qualified for the Supreme Court!

Some people say the Democrats have no chance in '92!

Agree? Disagree? What do you think?

Whatever is on your mind, we want to know about it!

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