

Nuclear power inefficient, CASH says

By AMY WINSLOW
Staff Writer

Nuclear power is dirty, dangerous and expensive, and America needs to adopt more energy-efficient technologies, said a spokeswoman for the Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris at a press conference Tuesday afternoon at the organization's Chapel Hill office.

Nuclear plants have high construction and maintenance costs and generate waste that is difficult to dispose of, said Susan Hassol, CASH spokeswoman.

"It (nuclear power) has proven not to be the clean, efficient source of energy that it was once claimed to be," she said.

The nuclear industry overstates the amount of power it actually supplies, said Hassol, referring to a study called "Too Costly To Continue" released

by Public Citizen, a Ralph Nader-affiliated consumer-watch group out of Washington, D.C.

"Also, the nation's 100 nuclear power plants may be costing consumers \$7 billion to \$13 billion more than current industry estimates will let us know," she said.

The two-year study based its conclusions on information from utility and nuclear industry associations, private utility consultants, academic and research organizations, the U.S. Department of Energy and other governmental agencies, Hassol said.

Nuclear power proves unreliable as an electricity source, Hassol said. The study reported that U.S. reactors operated at less than 60 percent of their rated capacity, on average, during 12 of the past 14 years.

The nuclear industry spends millions of dollars each year to repair nuclear plants, said Wells Eddleman, CASH spokesman and energy expert.

Building a nuclear plant, excluding operating and repair costs, could cost twice the amount of a cleaned-up coal plant, Eddleman said. The study concluded that it is more economical to operate and dispose of waste from a coal plant than from a nuclear plant, he said.

Disposing of nuclear waste costs between four and 12 times as much as plants claim, Eddleman said.

To remedy the waste disposal problem, Eddleman suggests decommissioning, a process involving shutting down the nuclear plant to allow the radiation inside the plant to decay.

Nuclear power plants use about

one-third of the heat they generate, Hassol said.

By using a process called co-generation, industrial heat can be converted into electricity, wasting little energy, she said.

"Co-generation renewables are the fastest growing source of energy," Hassol said. "With 90 to 95 percent efficiency, it could easily replace nuclear power."

Because of the costs of waste disposal and building nuclear power plants, no new plants have been ordered since 1974, Hassol said.

Originally, Shearon Harris, located outside of Raleigh, was intended to be the largest nuclear facility in the world, she said, but the four nuclear plants planned were cut down to the single standing plant because of the costs involved.

Reagan may choose Kennedy for Supreme Court nominee

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — Judge Anthony Kennedy's nomination to the Supreme Court appeared all but certain Tuesday, but White House officials went to unusual lengths to guard against the failures that brought down President Reagan's previous two choices.

Reagan met for a half-hour Tuesday evening at the presidential residence with Kennedy, a federal appellate judge from Sacramento, Calif., spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said. The nomination announcement will be forthcoming before the week is out, he said.

A face-to-face session with the president is customarily the final step before such an announcement. But Fitzwater said it had been agreed that "more consultations would take place" first, particularly with members of Congress.

Solidarity fugitive captured

WARSAW, Poland — Police today captured Kornel Morawiecki, the last major underground Solidarity leader and a fugitive since the 1981 martial law crackdown.

Morawiecki, leader of a militant Solidarity faction known as Fighting Solidarity, was arrested at an apartment in Wroclaw in southwestern Poland, government spokesman Jerzy Urban announced.

He said Morawiecki was being investigated on suspicion of smuggling and possessing false identification papers.

"He is one of the most outstanding opposition activists, in hiding the longest of all," said Jozef Pinior, a leader of Solidarity in Wroclaw. "His political and moral authority is very great, so there will certainly be begin actions in his defense."

Solidarity, once the first and only independent labor movement in the Soviet bloc, was suppressed and later outlawed under martial law. Martial law was lifted in July 1983, but Solidarity remains banned.

Smith elected to Baptist post

GREENSBORO — The Rev. Leon Smith of Goldsboro won the presidency of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention Tuesday, defeating Gastonia minister Ned Mathews by a nearly two-to-one margin.

"I believe this vote and decision

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tells us about where Baptists are in North Carolina," Smith said at a news conference after the vote was announced.

Smith's election came in the wake of the recent controversy at Southeastern Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, where conservatives took control of the board of trustees and voted to hire fundamentalist professors.

"We have seen the dismantling of our seminary at Wake Forest," Smith said. "This is a time for moderation, a time to rethink who we are and to end this takeover mentality."

Violence in the Philippines

MANILA, Philippines — Gunmen Tuesday ambushed the car of a university president whose campus had been raided in a roundup of alleged communists. The president was wounded and one of his three companions was killed, police said.

Police said the four were in a car traveling across a bridge in suburban Santa Ana about 10:30 p.m. when their assailants opened fire with .45-caliber pistols and M-16 rifles.

Police said Nemesio Prudente, president of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, was wounded in the left thigh and right arm. Hospital sources said the injuries were not serious.

Man appeals to turkey-napper

PEACHLAND, N.C. — Where the turkey once trotted on High Ridge Church Road, a hand-lettered sign pleads for a missing pet: "Lady In Gray Datsun Pickup Truck, The Turkey You Took From Here Is A Test Bird On Medicine. Please Bring It Back. You Could Get Cancer."

It's been more than a week since a woman snatched the 50-pound bird from Wade Mullis's front yard, and he figures she's planning a big Thanksgiving dinner.

"It just makes me sick," he said Monday. "I can't imagine somebody eating our pet."

Mullis, 57, said his father, Roy, 81, trained the 4-month-old bird to chase dogs and follow family members. He fattened it on a diet of mash and cracked corn — not medicine as the sign threatened.

"This is just my way of trying to get it back," Mullis said. "I was hoping I could shame her into it."

AIDS

returned to Chapel Hill and works part-time. He said he might want to resume his drama studies.

"I'm thinking about it," he says. "I'm trying to get into a normal routine. For the past six months I felt like a patient, and it really hadn't been terribly helpful for my emotional health. And I think emotional health and physical health are very tied together."

Although the possibility of death is very real, Jay said he is reluctant to abandon his dreams and goals.

"I just know that I would feel much better if I just got back on track and started pursuing my goals without regard to what the future might bring," he said. "I'll probably live a lot longer than if I settle back and try to be the model AIDS patient."

A couple of years ago when AIDS paranoia was high, Jay contracted mononucleosis. Jay suspected he might have AIDS, but he tested negative for HIV.

"I was paranoid as hell," he said. "I think I might have had the virus then, but they just didn't detect it."

Now Jay is hoping to quell some of the paranoia through education and promotion of safe sex.

"I'm a walking condom factory," he said. "You should be prepared. People are going to have sex and it's important to be responsible."

Safe sex must be promoted in schools, he said.

"You're not going to learn it if it's not taught," he said. "There's fear, but that's not going to stop people from having sex. And just because someone tells kids they shouldn't be having sex, doesn't mean they won't."

People in his hometown fear they will catch AIDS from casual contact and avoid him, Jay said. But he said ignorance about AIDS is not limited to heterosexuals.

"Even in the gay community, people will avoid me," he said. "I don't understand it. It's like I'm

subhuman. The information is available. There is no excuse for not knowing the facts. I have no patience with them. If you are gay and you don't know, you're messed up. You don't get AIDS from casual contact."

Jay said he is not sure whether he should be angry or try to educate those who fear him.

"You never know what kind of reaction you're going to get," he said.

Harsh reactions have motivated Jay to share his personal philosophy with people who shun him because of AIDS.

"My philosophy is that the only reasons we exist are to learn and to have fun," he said. "I think part of my role is to help people understand that those are the reasons we're here, to love and to learn to treat life with respect and dignity."

Jay doesn't hesitate to talk about AIDS. He's participated in panels and volunteer programs.

"AIDS has made me more aware of myself," he said. "It's made me command more respect. I want to make a difference for somebody. It's made me more liberal. I've become more active in standing up for the rights of others."

"Some people will believe AIDS is a punishment from God, but I refuse to believe that. I've lived my own spiritual life. I'm just as capable of feeling the depth of love that anyone else can. I'm not receiving any punishment from a vengeful god. I

don't feel unfortunate or tragic. Society may treat me like it does, but I like me. I like how I am. I'm a person of worth and I'm not going to repent for a sin I haven't committed."

Jay said his friends try to protect him from insensitive people and from harassment.

"My friends had told me about those 'Stop AIDS' T-shirts (which show two men having anal intercourse with a red circle and slash superimposed) so I wouldn't be totally unprepared if I saw it," Jay said. "But I saw some boy wearing one of those T-shirts one day and I wanted to cry myself senseless."

"Few people realize the importance of love. They're not taking into account that I'm a human being. He doesn't care that he's making fun of someone's plight. Anybody who puts one on, think about it. It's not funny to make fun of thousands of deaths. There are families who love them and want them to live. (The shirts) have no place in humor, maybe in hell."

Although Jay said he has come to terms with the prospect of death, other fears haunt him and his family.

"I'm afraid of lying in a hospital bed hooked up to machines," he said. "I'm afraid of physical pain. I'm afraid of not having enough money to live on and not being able to say and do all the things I want."

AZT costs about \$1,000 each month, and Jay must also pay for vitamin therapy and medical care. He said his family owes about \$23,000.

"If it weren't for my family, I'd be dead right now," he said. "I get \$348 a month from the government and they expect me to live on that. I shudder to think what it would be like if I didn't have my family. There are a lot who are much worse off."

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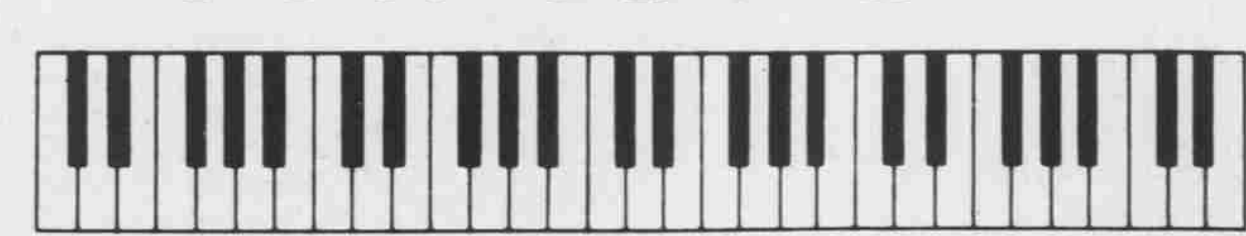
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