

Three Mile Island Cover Up

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 which shows a link between 430 infant deaths in Pennsylvania 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 month 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.

"I think they're afraid of what the figures would reveal, that's why they're not releasing them," said Pawlick. "That, to my mind, is a cover-up on the part of the Ontario government."

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 en-

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," said 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

currence of thyroid disorders in newborns in Pennsylvania in 1979 was the lowest in North America. But statistics published in a medical journal contradicted Greenburg. In a telephone interview, when Pawlick asked Greenburg to explain the discrepancy, he was put on "hold". A secretary said Greenburg had been called away on an emergency, and that it would not be worthwhile to contact him later.

Dr. Webster, a veterinarian who lives near the Three Mile Island reactor, noticed a sudden increase in birthing difficulties amongst farm animals after the accident. In the summer of 1979, he performed "two Caesarean deliveries a week" among goats and sheep. His usual rate was one per year. He also found a large increase in stillbirths and birth defects in domestic animals.

Webster asked the state agricultural department, the health department and the environment department to investigate. "They all refused," said Pawlick. "No examination has been conducted, and as far as the state of Pennsylvania is concerned, none ever will be."

The U.S. Bureau of the Census, who produced the Vital Statistics Reports used by Sternglass, claimed that a printing error had occurred in a recent report. "Oddly enough, it's been 50 years since such an error appeared, in the Vital Statistics, and oddly enough that error occurred in exactly the place where Sternglass' calculations needed it," said Pawlick.

"There is no absolute proof that anyone died at Three Mile Island, all there is, is a lot of evidence that looks very suspicious...The proper study has not been done, and until it is, we won't know whether anyone died at Three Mile Island, or whether anyone's dying anywhere from nuclear energy. The question is open and government authorities are derelict in their duty if they don't answer it."



The cover-up by the American government after the accident at Three Mile Island was much 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

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

reactor. Thyroid disorders can be caused by excess radiation, and may result in infant deformities, mental retardation or death.

MacLeod said health department data agreed with Sternglass, showing an increase in infant mortality near the reactor.

Dr. Frank Greenburg, of the Federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, said the oc-

CORPORATIONS: 1984 NOT SO FAR AWAY?

The days of the traditional food farm may be numbered.

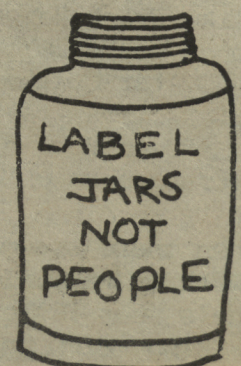
Two of America's biggest corporations have announced plans next year to open "vegetable factories"


The Control Data Corporation and the Whittaker Corporation are both planning to build huge, indoor facilities that will grow heads of lettuce in nutrient laden water instead of soil.

Both companies expect to be raising about 3 million heads of lettuce per acre of land, compared to the 30,000 heads per acre of land on a traditional farm.

The vegetable factories will rely on artificial lighting instead of the sun for growing, and the land and labour costs are said to be much lower than on traditional farms.


Business Week magazine says that if the concept works for lettuce, vegetable factories will soon be turning out other leafy greens as well.





THE BIKE SHOP

COME ON UP TO 2ND FLOOR
FOR ALL YOUR SPORTS AND
CASUAL CLOTHING.



63 UNIVERSITY AVE.