EIS000815

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January 12, 2000

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Ms. Wendy R. Dixon, EIS Project Manager
US Department of Energy M/S 010
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office
P.O. Box 30307
North Las Vegas, NV 89036-03070

Dear Ms. Dixon:

1 My comments on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" were sent to President Bill Clinton, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and leaders of Congress because I know from experience that the environmental review process of the US Department of Energy (DOE) is seriously flawed. Enclosed is a copy of the letter, which I hope you accept as comments on the EIS. Footnote 1 is an example of the flawed DOE process.

2... The major flaw in this DEIS is the failure to clearly distinguish between "Spent Nuclear Fuel," which contains large quantities of weapons and energy usable material, and "High Level Radioactive Waste," which does not. Most Americans are not aware of the difference, because the program initiated by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Glenn Seaborg during the Administration of President John Kennedy to provide full and accurate information about nuclear technology to Americans was discontinued by the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Department of Energy. Footnote 9 provides more information.

Disposal of spent nuclear fuel would create a virtually permanent proliferation/diversion threat and deny an energy resource that could provide all of the electricity needs of the US for more than 10,000 years. This action should not be approved.

Disposal of high level radioactive waste would not create a proliferation threat nor deny an important energy resource. Moreover, its shipment to and disposal at Yucca Mountain would not result in significant danger to present or future populations. This action should be approved.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this DEIS.

Sincerely

Clinton Bastin

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Attachment: Letter with enclosures

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January 12, 2000

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Comments on the "Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada" are provided to you because I know from experience that the environmental review process of the US Department of Energy (DOE) is seriously flawed[1]. Concluding remarks discuss need for a new approach and new vision for nuclear technology in the U.S. Enclosure 1 is a biographical sketch. Following are my comments:

2 cont.

- The DEIS fails to explain that spent fuel being considered for disposal at Yucca Mountain would contain enough plutonium for 100,000 nuclear weapons. This plutonium would become accessible for easy recovery after a few hundreds year decay of intensely radioactive fission products. Thus the proposed action for disposal of spent fuel would lead to a virtually permanent proliferation/diversion threat that could not be safeguarded.
- The DEIS also fails to explain that materials in this spent fuel could be used to produce electricity needs for the U.S. for more than 10,000 years, without the pollutants that poison our atmosphere and greenhouse gases that threaten catastrophic climatic changes.

3...

- Creation of geologic deposits of large quantities of accessible, weapons usable material and denial of an important energy resource are not responsible actions. The proposed action for disposal of spent fuel at Yucca Mountain should not be approved.

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[1]For example, the DEIS for New Tritium Production Capability during the Administration of President George Bush did not address substantive environmental issues. The factor of three to five difference in enriched uranium required and radioactive waste generated because of the different efficiencies for tritium production in the three types of reactors was not mentioned . My comments about this and request that the DEIS be redone were acknowledged but ignored. Shortly before the decision, Energy Secretary James Watkins asked for a copy of my comments, which were used to support his "no decision" on the EIS. These actions were described to the DOE Office of Inspector General in late 1992. This process during the Reagan Administration resulted in a decision to build new tritium production capability in Idaho, and was not taken seriously. Major effort during your first term focused on production in accelerators, with production in commercial reactors as a backup because of major technical uncertainties and known gross inefficiencies with production in accelerators. Thirty-five years ago, the Westinghouse Electric Corporation proposal to produce tritium in the Yankee Rowe Nuclear Power Plant was summarily rejected by the AEC because it would compromise important nonproliferation policies of the United States and its allies. Now, because almost twenty years and billions of dollars have been wasted and no time remains, the US is forced to compromise important, long-standing policies against use of commercial nuclear facilities for production of nuclear weapons materials.

3... • The proposed repository would provide acceptable long-term isolation from the biosphere of high level radioactive waste - i.e., unwanted fission products that remain after recovery of fissionable materials. The United States needs a repository for isolation of these wastes.

4 • Shipments of nuclear materials, including materials similar to high level radioactive waste being considered for shipment to Yucca Mountain, have been among the safest of any material shipped anywhere. There has never been an accident involving shipment of nuclear material that resulted in significant radiation exposure to humans. Design of shipping containers, successful stringent tests to ensure their high integrity, stable physical and chemical form of wastes, and rugged design of waste canisters provide strong assurances that credible accidents would not result in significant radiation exposure to humans. Moreover, experiences in cleanup of debris from nuclear weapons accidents at Palomares, Spain, and Thule, Greenland, and cleanup of spills of high level radioactive wastes at DOE and predecessor agency sites, provide strong assurance that recovery from even the most catastrophic accident could be carried out without significant danger to humans.

3... • The planned action for disposal of high level radioactive wastes at Yucca Mountain should be approved, and shipments of these materials from DOE's Savannah River, SC and West Valley, NY sites should begin as soon as possible[2].

5 • Most of the waste generated at DOE's Hanford, WA site is in a form and configuration that provides reasonable assurances of safe, long-term isolation from the biosphere. The Hanford site is a desert with seven inches of annual rainfall. It is bordered on two sides by the Columbia River and surrounded by tens of thousands of square miles of desert. Physical and chemical tests of soils conducted during the 1950s and 1960s showed that the combination of dryness and ion exchange capacity of the soils would preclude significant transport of intensely radioactive materials until after full decay[3]. Moreover, attempts to recover wastes

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[2]However, vitrified waste which would contain embedded briquets of excess weapons plutonium are not appropriate for permanent disposal at Yucca Mountain. John Ahearne, a member of your "Presidents Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology" (PCAST) and the National Academy of Sciences committee considering plans for disposition of excess weapons plutonium, discussed this material at the 1999 Winter Meeting of the American Nuclear Society. He explained that plutonium contained in vitrified waste in this manner would not provide protection equivalent to that for plutonium in spent fuel. Terrorists could remove the waste canister from a cask by robotic type equipment, cut open the canister , break the glass, remove the briquet of plutonium and easily transport it to a place for manufacture of a nuclear explosive. This plutonium in a permanent repository would also be a permanent diversion/proliferation threat. The plan to embed excess weapons plutonium in vitrified waste as a means to dispose of this material should be canceled.

[3]An editorial in the June 13, 1993 issue of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* supported leaving Hanford wastes there under good surveillance; my op/ed article in the July 10, 1993 issue supported this plan and provided further explanation. Concluding paragraphs of my op/ed article state that:

"Perhaps leaving the wastes in place at Hanford is not an ideal nuclear waste disposal solution, but managers at Hanford from the mid-1950s through the 1960s believed that it was. The initial tanks were built during World War II with an understanding that they would be replaced at the end of their 10-year expected life, but tests conducted later resulted in a change of the original plan. Now the reality at Hanford is a large amount of radioactivity in the ground, not fully retrievable no matter how much is spent. There is probably no realistic alternative to leaving the waste in place.

"As a participant in a seminar for chemical engineering professors at Hanford in 1958, I conducted some of the tests that supported conclusions that allowing the wastes to leak was an acceptable practice. I did not agree with the decisions at that time not to replace the old tanks. However, all technical evaluations support the conclusion that the wastes, stored as they are, pose no threat to human or other life forms."

5 cont. from soil and old tanks would result in needless radiation exposure to workers, and compromise the integrity of stored wastes. Finally, although small amounts of radioactivity might move with ground water into the Columbia River, which flows alongside the Hanford site, the amounts would be much less that those released from routine operations during the 1950s and 1960s. These releases were monitored, and there was no indication of adverse consequences to humans or other life forms.

- Operations to remove wastes from the soil and waste tanks at Hanford should be discontinued, except where there is evidence of danger[4]. However, continuing surveillance should be maintained, in connection with other nuclear activities for the benefit of humans.

6 - The DOE should accept responsibility for continued storage of spent fuel at commercial nuclear power plant sites pending actions for responsible disposition of this material[5]. Storage beyond the capacity of spent fuel storage basins should be in dry cask storage facilities similar to that for spent fuel at the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Maryland[6]. Reactor operators should continue to manage spent fuel storage facilities and activities.

3 cont. - The United States needs responsible programs for long term isolation of unwanted, intensely radioactive fission products in spent fuel, but indefinite storage of spent fuel at nuclear power plant sites or atYucca Mountain in Nevada is not such a program. At least 99.8% of the plutonium and other fissionable materials, and any valuable fission products in spent fuel must be removed prior to transfer of the unwanted fission products to a permanent repository. Facilities where this is carried out must be designed and operated so that there is no accumulation of weapons materials except in hardened areas between process steps. Recovered weapons usable materials would be immediately fabricated into mixed oxide fuels and destroyed and/or rendered inaccessible by irradiation in nuclear power plants. This is discussed further in Enclosure 2 "Nuclear Technology: Need for New Vision," a paper presented at the Global Foundation International Energy Forum in Washington DC on November 5, 1999.

7... - Although not a part of this DEIS, the United States and the international community need responsible programs for appropriate control and disposition of weapons source materials i.e., natural and depleted uranium, including that remaining from uranium enrichment. During the final two decades of the Cold War, weapons plutonium was produced in reactors at the SRP/SRS from these materials. An article in the March 2, 1999 issue of *The New York Times*

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[4]There have been many false allegations of a "Chernobyl-scale" accident in stored DOE wastes, and these allegations have led to wasteful expenditures of many billions of dollars. One such allegation is described on page 8 of enclosure 2. The "Khystym" accident at the Chelyabinsk site in the former Soviet Union was such an accident, but that was with fresh, highly concentrated, acid waste. DOE wastes are old, dilute, and alkaline.

[5]A precedent for this action was established in 1962, when the nuclear industry accepted Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) (mis)information and embarked on (flawed) commercial reprocessing. AEC plans for acceptance of commercial spent fuel at the "Receiving Basin for Off-site Fuels (RBOF) at SRP was modified to permit acceptance in reactor spent fuel storage basins, pending availability of spent fuel storage capability at the commercial reprocessing site.

[6]If you have not already done so, I recommend that you and leaders of Congress visit the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant site of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, including the dry cask facility for storage of spent fuel. You will also see the evidence of a strong commitment to important quality management principles.

7 cont. by Matt Wald discusses plans by the Department of Energy (DOE) to turn depleted uranium into salable goods, but does not mention that depleted uranium "targets" can be used for production of weapons plutonium in any neutron source, i.e., research reactor, fusion device, medical isotope production reactor, commercial nuclear power plant, etc., or in an accelerator. Moreover, plutonium produced in targets would be much easier to recover, because most of the intensely radioactive fission products are in the reactor fuel. These materials should be stored under appropriate controls for eventual destruction through use in advanced nuclear power plants for production of electricity or other important and valuable purposes. The planned compromise by the US of important policies against use of commercial nuclear power plants for production of nuclear weapons materials (discussed in footnote 1) makes this need all the more compelling.

8 • The DOE has no corporate memory and prepares revisionist history to justify its policies, programs and plans[7]. The explanation of U.S. commercial reprocessing history in this DEIS is inaccurate. Because very few nuclear professionals are aware of this history, President Emeritus Chauncey Starr of the Electric Power Research Institute and others asked that I prepare a history of reprocessing for publication in *Nuclear News*, the monthly magazine of the American Nuclear Society. Pages 3-6 of Enclosure 2, "Nuclear Technology: Need for New Vision" is a brief summary of this history.

Concluding Remarks:

In his keynote address at the 1999 Global Foundation Conference, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Commissioner Nils Diaz said that Senate Energy Committee Chairman Frank Murkowski and Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici were advocating a "new approach" for uses of nuclear technology. "U.S. Nuclear Technology: Need for a New Approach" was the title of my paper presented at the Global Foundation Conference in November 1996. A preliminary version of this paper was given to Senator Murkowski shortly after my visit with him to the Japan Nuclear Fuel Cycle site at Rokkasho Mura in early December 1996 and to Senator Domenici a few days later. The final version, which incorporates points made by Senator Murkowski and comments of professional staff of DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology, was sent to you, the Vice President, and leaders of Congress on January 28, 1997. Response from you was positive; that from the Vice President was that the ideas would be considered. Some have been implemented. Enclosure 3 is a copy of this paper. Needs identified in these papers include:

9... • Resumption by the United States of its appropriate role as a leader in use and safeguards of nuclear technology and reduction of threats of nuclear proliferation.

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[7]My letter to Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary of April 15, 1994, expressed concern about the "revisionist history" in DOE's Strategic Plan. In the response, DOE Assistant Secretary for Policy Susan Tierney agreed that statements were "incomplete" and "inadequate," but said that the inaccurate statements would not result in misdirected national or international energy policies in the 1990's. My reply to Dr. Tierney of June 23, 1994, stated that the revisionist history denied the vision of President Harry Truman - shared by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson - of the tremendous potential for benefit to humanity, in particular the huge reduction in atmospheric pollution made possible by use of nuclear technology. My letter also pointed out that misinformation could lead to misdirected national and international programs and further dangers of nuclear proliferation. Comparable revisionist history in DOE documents dates from its earliest days.

9 cont.

- An American public that is provided full and accurate information on the safety, environmental advantages, medical uses, national and global security, and other benefits of well-managed nuclear technology; a clear explanation of radiation and comparison of normal background radiation and its variation depending on geographical location with that from uses of nuclear technology, and lack of dangers from low levels of radiation[8]; dangers of nuclear technology and how they are safeguarded; and prompt correction of any misinformation[9].
- Full cooperation among nations for peaceful uses of nuclear technology.
- Assurances that best technology will be available for peaceful uses of nuclear technology by all nations, and that information on successful and unsuccessful experiences will be provided.
- Recognition that activities involving large scale uses of complex nuclear technology must be carried out by experienced, competent corporations.
- A safe, efficient and reliable production complex for nuclear materials for national programs such as defense, space exploration, medicine, industrial applications and research - including the production and study of trans-Seaborgium elements
- Good management of the by-products of the nuclear fission process, including recycle of all fissionable materials and long-term isolation of unwanted fission products from the biosphere.
- Adoption of partnership processes between labor and management, and between regulators and regulated organizations for assurance of safety and resolution of differences.
- The United States Nuclear Material Resources Corporation, a corporate structure with full commitment to best quality principles, for management of all government nuclear programs, including isolation of all radioactive wastes; design, maintenance, surveillance and production of all nuclear weapons and weapons materials; and research, development and demonstration to improve nuclear technology and its safeguards. Appropriate DOE sites and laboratories should be transferred to this corporation.
- The United States Technology Policy Board, whose members are appointed by you and future Presidents with the advice and consent of the Senate that would meet periodically to recommend or establish long-range nuclear policies.

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[8]Senator Pete Domenici is putting great energy into correcting false allegations of dangers to humans from low levels of radiation. However, these allegations have been used for many years to justify major programs of several agencies and work of many scientists, engineers, and others, including investigation of the Yucca Mountain site as a repository. The DOE study that showed no adverse health effects from the radiation to participants in "Human Radiation Experiments " should have lead to further study by the Federal Government of this matter. The large amount of data that implies health benefit from low levels of radiation exposure provides further justification for further study by our Government. Instead, essentially all studies are of effects from high exposures extrapolated to low exposures - which has no scientific validity. Enclosure 4 is a copy of my letter about lack of dangers from low levels of radiation published in the December 28 issue of *The Atlanta Constitution*, with that of George Berg, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester. I hope that you will provide leadership in support of Senator Domenici to correct false allegations of dangers from low levels of radiation, and efforts to inform Americans about the lack of dangers.

[9]Enclosure 5 is a Guest Editorial in the November 18, 1999 issue of *Community Review*, an outstanding neighborhood newspaper published in Decatur, Georgia. (Decatur is the County Seat of DeKalb County, which was recently recognized as one of the ten best communities in the United States. This newspaper and the community it serves are major reasons for this recognition. Enclosure 6 is a letter to the editor of *Community Review* dated January 3, 2000. This letter discusses the recognition by Albert Einstein and Glenn Seaborg of the need for Americans to be well informed about nuclear technology. Enclosure 7 is the January 6, 2000 issue of *Community Review*; this letter (reduced in length for an improved focus on major points) is on page 18. The guest editorial by Robert Soens on this same page provides good perspective on Decatur.

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I would be pleased to help in developing a new approach and new vision for uses of nuclear technology by the United States, discuss this letter and its enclosures with you or other Federal officials, or provide additional information.

Sincerely, and with best wishes and hopes for the new Millennium

Clinton Bastin

Enclosures:
1. Biographical Sketch
2. Paper: "Nuclear Technology: Need for New Vision"
3. Paper: "United States Nuclear Technology: Need for a New Approach"
4. Letters about lack of dangers from low levels of radiation in the December 28 issue of *The Atlanta Constitution*, including that of George Berg, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester
5. Guest Editorial in the November 18, 1999 issue of *Community Review*
6. Letter to the editor of *Community Review*, January 3, 2000
7. January 6 issue of *Community Review*

cc: Honorable Bill Richardson, The Secretary of Energy
Honorable Nils Diaz, Commissioner, US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Honorable Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the US House of Representatives
Honorable Trent Lott, Senate Majority Leader
Honorable Frank Murkowski, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Honorable Pete Domenici, Chairman, Senate Budget Committee
Honorable Roy Barnes, Governor of Georgia
Honorable Paul Coverdell, US Senate
Honorable Max Cleland, US Senate
Honorable Cynthia Ann McKinney, US House of Representatives
Honorable Stephanie Stuckey, Georgia House of Representatives
Dr. G. Wayne Clough, President, Georgia Institute of Technology
Mr. Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr., Publisher *The New York Times*
Mr. Roger Kintzel, Publisher *The Atlanta Journal/Constitution*
Ms. Julia Glenn Carter, Publisher, *Community Review*

Enclosure 1

Background on Clinton Bastin, Chemical Engineer (Ga Tech 1950)

Lead responsibilities for the US Atomic Energy Commission and successor agencies included:

- supply of the first US "Atoms for Peace" (Heavy water from Savannah River Plant)
- initial quality assurance program for tritium weapon component
- initial US Government program for disposition of commercial spent fuel including development of criteria for shipping containers
- first production of plutonium-238, which provides reliable power for instruments for missions into deep space such as Galileo to Planet Jupiter and Cassini to Planet Saturn
- receipt of the first shipment of spent fuel returned to the US from abroad
- chemical processing and radioactive waste management programs at the SRP, including studies for long-term isolation of wastes from biosphere, disposition of debris from US Air Force nuclear weapons accidents at Palomares, Spain and Thule, Greenland, and shipments of nuclear materials from SRP to other sites, 1962 to 1972
- tritium production and processing and all nuclear weapons activities at SRP, 1962 to 1970
- vision for commercial nuclear fuel cycle based on successful experience, 1970 to 1975
- consultation to US national security agencies on nuclear proliferation threats, 1972 to 1982
- lead consultant to International Atomic Energy Agency for "Organization and Administration" and "Spent Fuel Storage" studies for *Regional Nuclear Fuel Cycle Centres*, a major non-proliferation concept of the United States, 1976
- the US non-proliferation initiative with the Government of India during the Administration of President Jimmy Carter, 1977 to 1980
- collaborative programs with Japan for robotics and reprocessing development, 1982 to 1994
- as President of Federal Employees Union, representative of DOE Headquarters Employees at Germantown, Maryland, and editor of the Union's award winning newsletter, 1983 to 1996

At retirement in March 1997, he was recognized by:

- a DOE Distinguished Career Service Award "as the U.S. authority on reprocessing and an advocate and initiator of total quality management and partnering agreements,"
- a note of thanks from Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary for the "wonderful and productive partnership," and
- messages from leaders of the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy and Russian Nuclear Workers Union that they had adopted his ideas for partnerships between workers and managers for improved safety and quality of nuclear operations in Russia.

Papers presented at Global Foundation Conferences include:

- United States Nuclear Technology: Need for a New Approach (1996)
- Principles of Quality for Nuclear Technology: Essential for Sustainable Energy at Reasonable Costs in a Clean Environment (1997)
- Nuclear Technology: Need for New Vision (1999)

Signer and Director of the Eagle Alliance [1] and a member of the American Nuclear Society special committee on nonproliferation.

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[1] **The Eagle Alliance is a partnership of individuals and representatives of organizations who have worked to develop peaceful uses of nuclear technology and have declared their interdependence in the task of preserving, enhancing, and fully utilizing nuclear technology for the benefit of humanity. Mission of the Eagle Alliance is to provide full and accurate information to Americans about nuclear technology.**

Enclosure 2

NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY: NEED FOR NEW VISION

Clinton Bastin, Chemical Engineer United States Department of Energy (Retired)
987 Viscount Ct Avondale Estates, GA 30002 - Global Foundation Conference November 1999

Nuclear power plants generate electricity without release of chemicals that cause atmospheric pollution and global warming that threatens catastrophic climatic changes[1]. Increased and more efficient use of nuclear technology could reduce this danger and threat. However, in its recent report[2], Mobil Corporation dismisses nuclear power as a non-fossil alternative for reducing emissions that cause global warming, because of "concern over safety and proliferation."

Mobil's vision for nuclear power is flawed. But it is based on a 1998 International Energy Agency report[3], reflects the vision of many Americans and their political leaders, and is reflected in US nuclear policies and programs. The vision is flawed because:

- Well-funded organizations provide misleading information which overstates dangers of nuclear technology to local public interest groups, news media, local, state, and national political representatives and others. This information is provided under the guise of bringing "scientific excellence to public policy issues to promote the democratization of science and a healthier environment."[4]
- The nuclear community has failed to counter this effort with accurate information to these same entities. In particular, the nuclear community has failed to provide information to the public about the highly successful, coordinated, worldwide efforts by nuclear utility organizations over the past ten years to improve safety and performance of nuclear power plants.

The vision is also flawed because the nuclear community has failed to make clear to the public and political leaders:

- Differences between actions that led to nuclear proliferation and those for nuclear power.
- The lack of a credible proliferation threat from well managed and safeguarded nuclear power.
- The fact that spent fuel reprocessing and recycle are essential components of good nuclear non-proliferation and radioactive waste management practices. These actions are needed so that more efficient use can be made of fissionable materials, and unwanted radioactive fission products can be disposed of without need for permanent safeguards. In addition, potential weapons usable materials are destroyed through beneficial use.
- The fact that fast reactors are an essential component of good nuclear non-proliferation practice since they destroy through beneficial use, nuclear material and source materials that could be used to make weapons.

A new vision is needed, based on accurate assessment of experiences with nuclear technology, lessons learned from those experiences, efforts to achieve outstanding safety and performance, and good policies and management. This new vision - and communication of that vision to Americans and their political leaders - will lead to recognition of the need for the great benefits of nuclear technology, and resumption, by the United States, of its appropriate role as a leader in its use.

This "new vision" will differ from the present vision - but is recaptured from the exceptional vision of past leaders of nuclear programs - including Glenn Seaborg, to whom this conference is dedicated. However, it rejects the vision of those that led to failure.

The new vision includes full cooperation among nations for all components for peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Early leaders of the United States Atomic Energy Commission recognized that uncontrolled development of nuclear technology by individual nations could lead to nuclear weapons capability in many nations, and insecurity among virtually all nations about the nuclear intentions of their neighbors. Accordingly, they proposed to President Eisenhower and The Congress a program of "Atoms for Peace." Their vision was that the US should share nuclear materials and technology with other nations for peaceful uses so that an international safeguards regime could be developed to provide assurances that nuclear materials were not diverted to weapons programs. The Congress enacted and President Eisenhower signed the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, which provided for "Atoms for Peace."

Their vision for the program as a basis for international safeguards and safe, cost effective, peaceful uses of nuclear technology was sound; vision for its implementation was not. The first "Atoms for Peace" were sixty tons of heavy water supplied by the US to India for use as a moderator in the Canadian-supplied "Cirus" nuclear reactor. Cirus was called a research reactor, but in fact it was a weapons material production reactor. It was modeled after Canada's "NRX" reactor which was used for many years for production of plutonium for US nuclear weapons under a mutual security agreement. Later, the US supplied low-cost, Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) "pilot-plant" reprocessing technology to India and other nations, and a reprocessing pilot plant design to India.

In 1974, India detonated a nuclear explosive made with plutonium produced in the US and Canadian-supplied facilities, which were operated by India outside of the international safeguards regime. Leaders of India claimed that the device was a "Peaceful Nuclear Explosive," similar to those tested by the US under its "Plowshare" program, but other nations gave little credibility to this claim. Despite this major affront to the international non-proliferation regime, Presidents Nixon, Ford and Carter; leaders of the USAEC, Department of State and other national security agencies; and the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy of the US Congress continued to recognize the value of international collaboration in appropriate, peaceful uses of nuclear technology as a basis and an incentive for enhanced international safeguards. They also recognized that operation of the two US-supplied light water reactors in India under international safeguards - including well-safeguarded reprocessing and recycle of LWR spent fuel - was not a proliferation threat. Accordingly, they continued to support the supply of nuclear materials for operation of nuclear power plants in India, and maintained high priority bilateral and international efforts for enhanced safeguards in India.

At the end of 1974, programs of the AEC were transferred to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA, later the Department of Energy, DOE), and responsibilities of the JCAE were assigned to other Congressional Committees. Leaders of the new Federal agencies did not recognize the value of continued collaboration and efforts for enhanced safeguards, and supported legislation in Congress for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act (NNPA), which precluded US nuclear assistance to nations not a party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The NNPA also precluded assistance to other nations in the field of technology essential to best non-proliferation practice and good management of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants.

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As one of his final acts, President Carter took advantage of an exclusionary clause of the NNPA, overturned denial by the NRC of an export license for low enriched uranium for India, was narrowly upheld by one of two houses of The Congress, and was soundly criticized for his lack of support for nuclear nonproliferation. Subsequent US Presidents have been advised to continue to support the isolationist provisions of the NNPA, at great cost to development of technology for more viable nuclear power, and to global security. Quality leadership by the United States for collaboration with India for peaceful uses of nuclear technology in parallel with efforts for enhanced safeguards could well have precluded the recent nuclear tests and nuclear saber rattling of India and Pakistan[5].

The Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) was created in 1979 by the US nuclear power industry to promote the highest levels of safety and reliability - to promote excellence - in the operation of all US nuclear power plants. A companion organization, the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), formed in 1989, unites every commercial nuclear power plant in the world for similar goals for excellence, with members from all 32 countries that currently operate some 430 reactors. These efforts have been highly successful in improving safety and productivity of nuclear power plants throughout the world. INPO and WANO are an excellent model for "Atoms for Peace" for all systems needed for viable nuclear power, and other peaceful uses of nuclear technology. However, the success of their efforts must be clearly explained to human populations.

The new vision includes assurances that best technology will be available for peaceful uses of technology by all nations, and that full information on successful and unsuccessful experiences will be provided.

At the beginning of commercial nuclear power, nuclear power plant operators and vendors, and leaders of the AEC, recognized the need for appropriate management of spent fuel, including reprocessing. Reprocessing was needed so that fissionable materials could be recycled into existing and later advanced nuclear power plants and destroyed through beneficial use. Unwanted, intensely radioactive fission products could be isolated indefinitely from the biosphere in well-engineered repositories without need for permanent safeguards - which would not be possible. Nuclear power plants were designed with spent fuel storage capabilities that reflected the need for reprocessing and recycle of spent nuclear fuel.

In 1957, the AEC adopted a policy for receipt of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants - including those in other nations supplied by the US. Some AEC leaders recognized the difficulties of safe and successful reprocessing, and the nuclear proliferation threat of wide-scale deployment of low-cost, pilot plant reprocessing by nations with limited nuclear programs. Accordingly, responsibility for receipt of spent fuel was assigned to the AEC's most successful reprocessing site, the Savannah River Plant (SRP) in South Carolina.

Facilities were built for receipt and storage of spent fuel, clearance was obtained from major ports for its import, negotiations were carried out with nuclear utility operators and suppliers for its acceptance by the AEC, and research and development was carried out to permit reprocessing in H-canyon, the most successful and versatile reprocessing plant at SRP.

Terms and conditions for settlement were based not on actual AEC reprocessing costs, but estimates by ORNL for a conceptual reprocessing plant[6] with a capacity of one ton per day, operated 300 days per year, i.e., 80% time operating efficiency (TOE). Capitol cost for the conceptual plant was about $20 million; unit reprocessing cost was about $20 per kilogram of uranium.

The conceptual design and operation were stated to be "based on experiences AEC has accumulated in its operations."[7] In fact the design was based on the ORNL pilot plant concept incorporated in the Idaho Chemical Processing Plant which cost about $20 million; TOE was based on experiences at Hanford and SRP in plants that cost about $100 million. The TOE for the ICPP was not 80%, but 3%[8], and there were major safety deficiencies.

AEC vision expressed in its policy statement was that reprocessing of power reactor spent fuels would be done by the commercial sector, at costs approximating those of the AEC-ORNL conceptual plant. The "Industrial Reprocessing Group" studying reprocessing accepted the AEC vision, which led to the ill-fated Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) reprocessing plant at West Valley, NY. Wes Lewis, who had managed the ORNL pilot reprocessing plant, was, under the circumstances, an outstanding manager for West Valley. A TOE of almost 30% was achieved, but process losses and radiation exposures to workers were more than a factor of ten larger than those at SRP and final product often failed to meet specifications. During the sixth and final year of operation, radiation exposures were well above requirements and rising exponentially, release of radioactivity to surface streams exceeded technical specifications, and AEC regulatory authorities ordered a halt of operations[9].

General Electric Company designed and built the Midwest Fuel Recovery Plant (MFRP) at Morris, Ill., and planned to start operation in 1972. However, technical problems during cold testing led to a corporate review, with conclusions that the combination of more complex processing equipment with higher expected failure rates, and close-coupling of process steps, which required much longer time to resume operation after shutdown, would permit a TOE of only a few percent. GE decided not to operate the facility[10].

In 1967, Allied Chemical Company (ACC) assumed responsibility for operation of the ICPP. Corporate officials read company reports of ICPP operations which indicated economically attractive reprocessing. General Atomics Corporation (GAC) was attempting to commercialize High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactors (HTGRs) which required reprocessing for viable operation; favorable fuel cycle economics were based on reprocessing in a conceptual plant designed by ICPP staff. In 1970, ACC and GAC formed a subsidiary organization, Allied-General Nuclear Services (AGNS) to build and operate a commercial fuel reprocessing plant near Barnwell, SC, the Barnwell Nuclear Fuel Plant (BNFP), using the ICPP as a model. Arnold Ayers, production superintendent at ICPP, was selected as technical manager for the BNFP.

During the period 1972 to 1974, AEC reprocessing staff told ACC executives that safety of operations at the ICPP was unsatisfactory and productivity was overstated by a factor of five, and made arrangements for assistance from another AEC reprocessing contractor to help resolve major problems. This staff also suggested to GAC staff that cost estimated by ICPP for an HTGR reprocessing facility was under-estimated by about a factor of ten. GAC contracted with Bechtel Corporation for an HTGR fuel reprocessing plant design study, which confirmed the higher costs. After an expenditure of $500 million, GAC withdrew from HTGR commercialization. The parent companies were then fully aware of deficiencies inherent in the model they had selected for their reprocessing plant design, and AGNS informally notified the AEC that it would not complete the BNFP without substantial Federal support.

In 1974, after failure and indications of failure of three commercial reprocessing ventures, the AEC reassigned programs for support of commercial fuel reprocessing to emphasize successful experience and lessons learned from that experience. Responsibilities were transferred from the AEC Division of Reactor Development and Oak Ridge National Laboratory with their pilot plant reprocessing model, to the Division of Production and DuPont Company-operated SRP with their safe, successful, cost-effective production-scale reprocessing experience.

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DuPont carried out and supported research and development by others focused on conceptual design studies for an NRC licensed fuel recycle complex based on its successful reprocessing experience and lessons learned from that experience and the experience of others. The design studies were completed and reports issued in November 1978. Costs for the 3000 ton/year integrated fuel reprocessing/fabrication facility were estimated at $3.7 billion (1978 dollars). Special features of this facility design include:

- Canyon structure for containment of process equipment, which would be installed and replaced remotely by overhead cranes. This arrangement is most cost effective in that it provides for maximum use of building space since there is no need for space between process equipment. Failed equipment can be replaced in less than one day and is then moved to separate maintenance shops within the canyon structure for decontamination and repair.
- Use of best technology, including centrifugal contactors for first cycle solvent extraction and solution storage between process steps. This permits process operation at full capacity within a few minutes after startup, compared to eight days at Hanford PUREX and thirty days for the ICPP, and is a major factor in achieving the high time operating efficiency of 80%.
- Product recoveries of greater than 99.8%.
- Spent fuel reprocessed one-year after reactor discharge.
- Personnel access to operating areas through hardened tunnels with close control of entry/exit.
- High-level wastes solidified in glass suitable for long-term isolation in a Federal waste repository.
- Flexibility for changes, additions or upgrade of process equipment, flowsheets, instruments, etc., thus the basic canyon structure can be operated indefinitely.
- No accumulation of separated plutonium except for secure surge storage between reprocessing and fuel fabrication. Plutonium leaving hardened containment (i.e, reinforced concrete structure designed to resist an attack using weapons and explosives) would be in MOX fuel assemblies. A "co-processing" design option would eliminate any separate streams or accumulation of separated plutonium.
- Tritium and krypton removal.
- Sand filtration, because of demonstrated high reliability, long life, high efficiency, high air permeability, inherent freedom from channeling, superior protection during fires, better performance in the presence of moisture, high chemical resistance, self-sealing after disturbances such as earth tremor, tornado or explosion, and ease of maintenance or repair.
- Opportunities for lower cost through research and development, and as a result of the much longer cooling time for spent fuel to be reprocessed.

This facility design concept was not considered in White House reviews of reprocessing during the Ford and Carter Administrations, nor as an option for support by President Reagan, who had been elected on a platform to support reprocessing of commercial spent fuel. The ERDA and the DOE had reassigned responsibilities for commercial fuel cycle to its Division of Reactor Development (later Office of Nuclear Energy) which supported pilot plant concepts of its national laboratories and rejected concepts based on successful experience and lessons learned from that experience.

The new vision includes recognition that activities involving large scale uses of complex nuclear technology must be carried out by experienced, competent corporations.

General Leslie R. Groves, Director of the US Manhattan Project during World War II, recognized that the difficulties of safe and sustained reprocessing needed for production of plutonium for a nuclear deterrent would be a challenge even to the most experienced chemical corporation. He asked the DuPont Company to design and build the reprocessing pilot plant at the Clinton Laboratories at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and later to design, build and operate the industrial-scale reprocessing at the Hanford Engineering works in Washington State.[11]

Many of the Manhattan Project scientists were disappointed with decisions to use industrial corporations for reprocessing and other operations for the nuclear project. They believed that their accomplishments had earned them the right to carry the project through to completion, and that time would be wasted in teaching a second group the knowledge that they had already created and mastered. Most of the scientists were young and had no industrial experience or understanding of the difficulties of safe, sustained operations with complex technology.[12]

That vision of Manhattan Project scientists was carried forward in AEC/ERDA/DOE national laboratories, and is documented in a 1994 report by ORNL for the DOE with a statement by a former associate director "It is safe to say that (ORNL) Chem Tech has played the leading role in solving the nation's reprocessing problems. When Alvin Weinberg was ORNL's Director, he used to say that one purpose of the laboratory was to undertake big projects of national purpose that others could not handle. Chem Tech's achievements are testimony to that and have earned the division a lasting place in the history of the country's atomic energy programs."[13]

The vision of the DOE is that national laboratories are competent to carry out activities involving complex nuclear technology. The vision of the US Department of Defense is that "one cornerstone to maintaining quality of the DoD Science and Technology program is the strength of partnerships with industry" and "industry's experience with technology can be essential to quality decisions in managing DoD S&T programs."[14] Hopefully The Congress and The President will keep this in mind when considering a new organization for carrying out important nuclear work of the DOE.

The new vision includes a safe, efficient and reliable production complex for nuclear materials for important national programs such as defense, space exploration, medicine, industrial needs and research, including production and study of trans-Seaborgium elements.

The ten years that Glenn Seaborg was Chairman of the USAEC were exciting for managers and workers in nuclear programs, and particularly for nuclear materials production programs at the Savannah River Plant. When he determined, in 1964, that no more weapons plutonium was needed, major efforts were devoted to production of tritium needed to maintain and improve the strategic nuclear deterrent; plutonium-238 for space exploration; higher isotopes of plutonium and uranium-233 for advanced reactor development; high specific activity cobalt for food irradiation and other purposes; and other isotopes for medical and industrial applications and research. Most exciting was adaptation of "C" reactor at SRP for high flux operation for production of kilograms of americium-243 and curium-244; grams of californium-252; milligrams of Einsteinium, Fermium, Mendelevium and Nobelium; micrograms of elements 103 to 108, including element 106 which was named Seaborgium in his honor; and many atoms of higher elements, including elements above 113 that Dr. Seaborg expected would be more stable.

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The "Multi-Purpose Processing Facility" was installed in "F" Canyon (reprocessing plant) at SRP for separation of Californium and trans-californium elements using newly developed, high-pressure, chromatographic cation exchange processes.

The neutron flux achieved at "C" reactor was much higher than that in the High Flux Isotope Reactor (HFIR) at ORNL, and production in heavy water moderated reactors is several orders of magnitude more efficient than accelerators that were used a year ago to produce the first atom of element 114. Dr Seaborg recognized the need for a large, efficient complex for production of higher elements, because of the exponentially decreasing yields with increasing atomic numbers.

All of that capability has been lost by the Department of Energy, including the industrial contractor that was responsible for its success.

The tritium that is needed to maintain the nuclear deterrent will be produced in commercial nuclear power plants which is inefficient and a compromise of important and long standing non-proliferation practice; plutonium-238 needed for space exploration is being purchased from Russia.

Hopefully The Congress and The President will keep the need for this vision in mind when considering a new organization for carrying out important nuclear work of the Department of Energy.

The new vision includes viable programs for management of the by-products of the nuclear fission process, including recycle of all fissionable materials and long-term isolation of unwanted fission products from the biosphere.

In May, 1991, Henry Thomas, a former Assistant Secretary of Energy and executive of the American Gas Institute, described his vision for an energy future in the US to participants at a Federal executive seminar on foreign policy. He described nuclear power as safe - but then said that natural gas would become the energy resource of choice because of the inability to manage nuclear wastes.

Mr. Thomas's vision is sound, except that the problem is not inability, but unwillingness to manage and dispose of wastes from commercial nuclear power plants and recycle valuable materials.

The DOE draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain in Nevada was issued in July 1999. The action described is appropriate for disposal of radioactive waste, i.e., the fission products remaining after recovery of fissionable materials in reprocessing. However, it is not appropriate for disposal of the plutonium and other weapons or weapons source material in spent fuel, that become accessible for easy recovery with decay of thirty-year half-life cesium-137. The action also denies use of an energy resource that could be used to supply all of the electricity needs for the United States for 10,000 years, without release of atmospheric pollutants or greenhouse gases that threaten catastrophic climatic changes. Thus there is no program nor plan for a program for appropriate disposal of commercial nuclear wastes.

Some utilities are providing long-term on-site dry cask storage; others are negotiating with Native American nations for storage on reservations, while others propose shipment of spent fuel to Yucca Mountain for interim, retrievable storage. But these options do not address waste disposal and will not convince an informed public that the waste problem has been solved.

Hopefully The Congress, The President, and leaders of nuclear utilities will keep the need for this vision in mind during deliberations for new organizations that will carry out important nuclear work of the DOE, and will decide to create a new corporation under the direction of nuclear utilities that will begin programs for management of commercial spent fuel. The DOE should make available to this corporation all funds collected under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA), plus interest, and at least two sites, such as the SRP in South Carolina and the Hanford Works in Washington State.

NWPA funds should be supplemented by amounts equivalent to those now devoted to environmental restoration at the sites. Nuclear utilities should request assistance from experienced corporations in setting up the new corporation for spent fuel management and carrying out this important work, and ensure that best technology is used.

The new vision includes an American public that is provided full and accurate information on the safety, environmental advantages, medical uses, and other benefits of nuclear technology; the lack of dangers from well-managed nuclear technology; and the consequences of poor management and efforts to assure that it is well managed.

This is a vision of Glenn Seaborg. Soon after he became Chairman of the AEC, this vision was initiated in portions of the AEC, and continued under Chairmen James Schlesinger and Dixy Lee Ray. Richard Roberts, the first Assistant Administrator for Nuclear Energy in the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) attempted to continue the program, but was ordered by the ERDA Office of General Counsel not to do so, and this order has been sustained under the DOE.

The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER), a well-organized and well-funded anti-nuclear organization in Takoma Park, Maryland, publishes *Science for Democratic Action (SDA)* four times a year to "provide the public and policy-makers with thoughtful, clear, and sound scientific and technical studies on a wide range of issues. IEER's aim is to bring scientific excellence to public policy issues to promote the democratization of science and a healthier environment."[15]

SDA is well written, but explains with false or misleading, often inflammatory information why everything being done with nuclear technology is wrong and should be phased out, all waste placed at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant should be removed, excess Russian and US weapons plutonium should not be destroyed by its use as MOX, and glassification of high level radioactive waste should be replaced by calcination whose product is not only soluble but hygroscopic.

SDA is distributed to local public interest groups; news media; local, state and national political representatives; and others. Major newspapers have adopted ideas from *SDA* for editorial policies and rely on Arjun Makhijani, IEER President, as an authority on nuclear technology. The lead article in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's August/September 1988 issue of *Technology Review* by Mr. Makhijani and Robert Alvarez, later DOE Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, featured false allegations of dangers of DOE nuclear waste, including probability of a Chornobyl-scale explosion. *The Washington Post* article, "Nuclear Waste: The $100-Billion Mess" was adapted from the *Technology Review* article for the entire front page of the "Outlook" section of its September 4, 1988 issue. The DOE had a comprehensive report from The DuPont Company[16] refuting the allegations of danger and thus knew that they were false, but made no effort to correct the misinformation. *Technology Review* published a letter to the editor[17] correcting the misinformation, and later the editor-in-chief admitted that the article had been a serious mistake. *The Washington Post* did not publish any correcting information. This misinformation led to increased public fears of non-existing dangers and appropriation of approximately $6 billion per year for "Nuclear Waste Cleanup" beginning in 1990. Tens of billions of dollars have been wasted.

In June 1995, 43 individuals and representatives of organizations who have worked to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology signed a declaration of interdependence in support of the Eagle Alliance. In the charter they acknowledged existence of influential interests who strive to deny others access to nuclear technology, and who have occupied the domain of public opinion by the restraint and silence of knowledgeable individuals and organizations.

However, the corporation formed to implement this declaration of interdependence has failed to provide information to the public, news media, local, state and national political representatives, or others. There will be no level playing field for use of nuclear technology unless there is a well-coordinated national effort to provide accurate information to the public and to correct misinformation.

Summary and Conclusion

The great benefits of nuclear technology will not be fully realized until the nuclear community adopts a new vision, which includes:

- Full cooperation among nations for peaceful uses of nuclear technology
- Assurances that best technology will be available for peaceful uses of nuclear technology by all nations, and that information on successful and unsuccessful experiences will be provided
- Recognition that activities involving large scale uses of complex nuclear technology must be carried out by experienced, competent corporations
- A safe, efficient and reliable production complex for nuclear materials for national programs such as defense, space exploration, medicine, industrial applications and research - including the production and study of trans-Seaborgium elements
- Viable programs for management of the by-products of the nuclear fission process, including recycle of all fissionable materials and long-term isolation of unwanted fission products from the biosphere
- An American public that is provided full and accurate information on the safety, environmental advantages, medical uses, national and global security, and other benefits of well-managed nuclear technology.

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UNITED STATES NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY - NEED FOR A NEW APPROACH

Presented at Global Foundation International Energy Conference 1996, Miami Beach, Florida
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Nuclear technology provides great benefit to mankind and has potential for much greater benefit. It is essential for best medical diagnosis and treatment; it is essential for exploration of deep space, national and global security, and many industrial applications. The growing awareness of environmental dangers from over reliance on combustion of fossil fuels; the strategic importance, versatility, and diminishing supplies of petro-fuels; the limitations for cost-effective use of solar and geothermal energy; and the diminishing potential for use of fusion energy, will lead to the recognition that efficient use of nuclear technology is essential if we are to provide energy for future global needs at reasonable costs and in a healthy environment.

Through proper management and efficient use of nuclear materials, instead of their disposal, long term energy needs can be met with minimum adverse impact on our environment, the full potential for benefit from nuclear technology can be achieved, and potential for misuse of weapons usable materials for destructive purposes can be greatly reduced.

But like many technologies of modern - and ancient civilizations and nature, nuclear technology has potential for danger and destruction. The use of nuclear technology in the United States has been and is one of mankind's safest-ever undertakings. It is important that the systems for assurance of safety and environmental protection, cost-effective management, and development of policies for use of nuclear technology be well conceived and of high quality. In the United States they are not - and because they are not, many billions of dollars are wasted, work that should be performed is not performed, nuclear technology has lost credibility with citizens of America and their leaders, and there is potential for loss of many of the great benefits. It is well past time for a new approach.

Need: Partnership interactions between labor and management, and between regulators and those regulated

Shortly after the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, I was a participant in a conference for improved relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. Most participants were not familiar with nuclear power plant operations, so I volunteered to make a presentation about this accident. As I discussed the positive reactivity coefficient with loss of coolant, and the presence of moderator at the ends of control rods that would initially increase reactor power as control rods were inserted in an attempt to shut down operation, I noticed some individuals that seemed particularly interested in my remarks. When I finished, they asked to speak with me, identified themselves as engineers that had worked at the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow on design of nuclear reactors, then said that they were part of a large group of engineers and scientists that had protested the design of the Chernobyl type reactors - to managers, and then to senior officials of the Soviet Union. Their protests were not only rejected. They were fired. Managers made decisions that not only did not incorporate, but totally rejected best knowledge and punished those that came forward with that knowledge. Management decisions without best knowledge from employees that have resulted in catastrophes are not unique to any nation. The explosion and loss of lives of astronauts aboard the United States Space Shuttle Challenger were the direct result of such a decision. Engineers working on the U.S. space shuttle program knew about problems of O-Rings at connections of segments of the solid rocket booster - and knew that cold weather conditions would increase the danger. If there had been an active partnership between workers and managers in the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the knowledge from workers about the dangers would have forced a decision that the shuttle not be launched. Christa McAuliffe would still be teaching school.

In April 1996 the Central Committee of Russian Trade Unions of Nuclear Power and Industry Workers sponsored an international conference on nuclear power plant safety in Moscow to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. My keynote address at this conference featured experiences of engineers at NASA and the Kurchatov Institute as an example of the importance of labor-management partnerships to safe operation of facilities that use complex technology and involve potentially hazardous operations or materials.

There was one other American at this conference, Ron Owen, Deputy Director of the London Coordinating Center of the World Association of Nuclear Operators, an outgrowth of the U.S. Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. Ron and I had several discussions about the concept of labor-management partnerships for ensuring safe operations of nuclear power plants. He initially challenged my remarks, pointing out the existence in U.S. nuclear programs for "employee concerns" and "whistle-blower protection" that would provide for input from employees. I countered with the argument that the U.S. concepts were inherently negative, and that input would almost always be after decisions had been made and thus likely to be rejected. Had "whistle-blower protection" been available for engineers and scientists at the Kurchatov Institute, they would not have been fired - but it is not likely that design changes would have been made in the Chernobyl type reactors. And there was probably little concern for loss of jobs by engineers knowledgeable of problems with the Challenger Shuttle launch; their concern was for lives of the Astronauts but fell on deaf ears.

Requirement for full partnerships between labor and management in all U.S. nuclear programs and nuclear activities would enhance safety, environmental and radiation protection, safeguards, cost effectiveness - indeed all of the characteristics that contribute to a quality type operation.

Similarly, replacement of the confrontational regulatory approach of both the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for commercial nuclear programs, and the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for Department of Energy nuclear activities, by efforts to listen to and seek to understand each other, and resolution of differences through partnership type processes, would also lead to safer and more viable and cost effective nuclear activities.

The concept of partnership between workers and managers is not new, and it is applicable not only to safety but to quality and cost effectiveness of all activities. Partnership agreements provide that input from workers, who have the detailed knowledge of all activities, be incorporated in decision processes - at the outset, and as the project or program moves forward. The concept has been practiced in nuclear power development programs in Japan for many years - and I learned at the conference in Moscow that it is standard practice in other nations. The practice is beginning in the United States, but it is far from standard - or even typical. National Treasury Employees Union President Robert M. Tobias has for many years held a vision for major improvement in U.S. Government operations through partnerships between workers and managers. Ten years ago he presented these ideas to Treasury Department executives, and labor management partnerships were formed to improve quality of operations. Where there has been a major commitment by management and workers for a partnership, there has been great improvement in quality of operations.

Vice-President Al Gore has long held strong ideas of the importance of safe operation and good environmental practices for industrial facilities, and he also has strong interest in improved operation of our Federal Government. Soon after his election as Vice President, he met with Mr. Tobias to obtain an understanding of his ideas of labor-management partnerships as a means to improve quality of Government. These ideas were incorporated in Executive Order 12871, issued by President Bill Clinton on October 1, 1993.

Several weeks before President Clinton signed this Executive Order, our Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary met with Mr. Tobias and me and asked that we work with the Department's managers through partnerships to build needed quality in DOE operations.

DOE's Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE), where I work, has responsibility for ensuring availability of isotopes for health care, research, and industry; supply of radioisotope thermoelectric generators (RTGs) for exploration of deep space; development of advanced nuclear reactor and nuclear fuel cycle concepts; ensuring the safety of DOE reactors; enhancing safety of Soviet design reactors, and assisting in the stabilization of the damaged reactor at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station in Ukraine.

There is a formal agreement for a partnership for quality between labor and management in this office, and a strong commitment to the concept by leadership of our employees' union and some of the managers. In some respects, NE is a model for the quality organization that is needed to manage nuclear technology, and staff members are often called upon to provide advice to other organizations or to the Secretary on important nuclear matters.

Need: Corporate instead of bureaucratic management; the United States Nuclear Material Resources Corporation

The Office of Nuclear Energy is one of twenty organizations in DOE, of which eight have responsibility for nuclear technology. None of the other seven has a strong partnership between labor and management and there is little overall coordination. All are dominated by political leadership which changes every few years thus there is no assurance of the continuity that is essential to sustained quality.

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Success of some NE programs depends on other DOE offices; for example, supply of RTGs that provide electricity for instruments aboard vehicles that travel into deep space, such as Galileo at Planet Jupiter, requires Plutonium-238 which was produced in the past by DOE's Office of Defense Programs. But Defense Programs discontinued production of this material in 1983. NE programs are no worse off than those of the U.S. Department of Defense which will need tritium to replace that in our strategic nuclear deterrent lost through decay - but there is no capability for production of this material and no firm programs are underway to establish the capability, despite major initiatives by former Energy Secretaries Don Hodel and James Watkins. NE is also no worse off than utilities operating nuclear power plants and relying on DOE for acceptance of spent nuclear fuel, and hospitals and other commercial organizations that need sites for stabilization and isolation of low-level radioactive wastes. The DOE has sites that would be ideal for management of spent nuclear fuel, for stabilization and isolation of low level radioactive wastes, and for production of nuclear materials that are needed for important national programs. But decisions must be made to do the right thing.

The other keynote speaker at the conference last April in Moscow was Viktor Mikhailov, Minister of Atomic Energy of Russia, who talked about problems facing Nuclear Power Plant operators that had supplied electricity free to customers under the centrally controlled economy of the Soviet Union - but under the present market economy customers are expected to pay, and they are not. He said that workers usually go for months without pay, and that needed reactor safety upgrades without any money is very difficult.

I was interested in Dr. Mikhailov's remarks - but most interested in the fact the only he and I, of all speakers at the conference, represented nations where nuclear technology is managed by a cabinet-level government department.

The Department of Energy is a government bureaucracy with responsibility for managing very complex nuclear technology. Fifty-four years ago, at the dawn of the nuclear age, leaders of the United States Government wisely determined that a government bureaucracy could not carry out the tasks needed for this complex technology; that corporate experience, know-how, and organizational strength would be needed.

The DuPont Company, a U.S. corporation with a long history of excellent safety experience using complex technology involving hazardous materials, was selected to design, construct, and operate nuclear reactors and reprocessing plants for production of plutonium at the Hanford Engineer Works, in Washington State - and carried out that mission with great success. Management practices of this corporation emphasized best possible input from knowledgeable employees and other knowledgeable sources prior to corporate decisions for new ventures - and full input from employees on any safety concern, including regular meetings among employee groups for full resolution of these concerns.

During the late 1940s the Soviet Union designed, constructed and operated facilities for similar effort. It's interesting to compare experiences at the U.S. corporate and Soviet bureaucratic facilities. At the U.S. plants, maximum radiation exposure to personnel was about one REM per year. At the Soviet plants, average radiation exposure per person was 150 REM per year; maximum exposure was more than 300 REM per year (Five REM per year is a maximum allowable radiation dose to U.S. workers; 500 REM is a lethal dose to most people).

And less we attribute all of the difference to Soviet Communism, note that average radiation exposure to personnel at the Nuclear Fuels Services, Inc., reprocessing plant in the U.S. during its last year of operation was almost eight REM per year, maximum exposure was sixteen REM, and exposures were rising exponentially. The NFS reprocessing plant design was the product of bureaucratic folly of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Also, the Atomic Energy Commission issued a construction permit for a commercial nuclear facility in which a credible accident could have released gross quantities of highly radioactive materials - and some senior executives of the Department of Energy planned a demonstration incorporating that facility, disregarding concerns of experienced employees. Fortunately, President Ronald Reagan said NO!

Because of the outstanding success of its operations at the Hanford Engineer Works, President Harry Truman requested that The DuPont Company design, build, and operate the Savannah River Plant (SRP) for the United States Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) to produce nuclear materials for defense and important peaceful applications - and The Company did so, again with outstanding success.

Twenty-five years ago SRP was being operated by DuPont to produce nuclear materials under direction, leadership and oversight of the AEC Savannah River Operations Office (SROO). Virtually all facilities were in operation and most of the materials produced were for peaceful applications including plutonium-238 needed for exploration of deep space; tritium was produced to maintain the strategic nuclear deterrent. Near world-best safety records (Best ever DOE and AEC safety records) were being established; reactor operation was under continuing review of the Advisory Committee for Reactor Safeguards and judged as safe; protection of workers and off-site personnel from radiation, and that part of the environment important to life was outstanding. A new chemical processing facility was in start-up for recovery of gram quantities of Californium and milligram quantities of Berkelium, Fermium, etc. with highly advanced pressurized chromatographic cation exchange technology. Plutonium scrap from SRP operations was recovered immediately and there were no excess accumulations; plans were under development for delivery of scrap from other sites for recovery at SRP. Highly radioactive products of fission processes, so-called high level radioactive wastes, were being stored safely in a manner that would permit later recovery of the valuable materials for beneficial use. Studies were underway for advanced concepts for commercial nuclear fuel reprocessing based on world-best experience that would have provided increased safety and environmental protection and greatly increased safeguards, material controls, and proliferation resistance. Full potential of SRP land was achieved by the AEC and the U.S. Forestry Service through the planting, site-wide, of pine trees and harvesting by commercial firms for paper and wood products (Prior to acquisition by AEC, most of the land was devoted to very marginal cotton farming and hunting). There were extensive and unique programs for environmental and ecological research. Total employment at the plant and laboratory, including DuPont corporate management in Wilmington Delaware, was about 10,000.

Five years ago at SRP there were almost 30,000 employees; the entire complex was devoted to military activities under Nuclear Navy style management, Department of Energy leadership, and Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board oversight; virtually nothing was in operation. Another interesting comparison of corporate versus bureaucratic, military type management, and bureaucratic military type oversight.

The studies that would have provided an excellent model for appropriate worldwide management of spent nuclear fuels had been completed years earlier but had been rejected by bureaucratic managers of the Energy Research and Development Administration, and were never made available for consideration in national policy decision processes of The Congress or The President.

The United States created world-best nuclear technology for its weapons programs through U.S. corporate know-how, expertise, and organizational strengths, with input from research and development from government, university, and commercial laboratories.

Some of this technology was adapted for commercial nuclear programs; nuclear power plants were deployed by U.S. corporations with great success throughout most of the world. Uranium enrichment services were made available by the United States, but under government bureaucratic management which resulted in questionable marketing policies, wasted expenditures of several billions of dollars, and limited advancements in enrichment technology. Transfer of uranium enrichment programs from bureaucratic to corporate management should lead to improvements, particularly if the U.S. Enrichment Corporation incorporates advanced quality principles in its management practices.

Responsibility for disposition of commercial spent nuclear fuel and spent fuel of U.S. origin from abroad was initially assigned to an AEC industrial contractor with world-best experience in spent fuel management - but misinformation from the AEC led to commercial reprocessing based on technology that had failed in AEC operations. Upon full recognition of failure of commercial reprocessing, and under the leadership of AEC Chairman Dixy Lee Ray, experienced senior managers and competent technical staff undertook study with input from U.S. nuclear utilities and nuclear companies, and reassigned efforts for development of technology for spent nuclear fuel reprocessing and recycle to build on successful experience. But competent managers and technical staff were discarded as AEC responsibilities were transferred to the Energy Research and Development Administration, and reprocessing development responsibilities were transferred back to the source of flawed technology.

Continuing bureaucratic folly since that time has led to indefinite accumulation of spent fuel at commercial nuclear power plants and DOE facilities, indefinite accumulation of separated plutonium, waste of many billions of dollars, plans to create geologic deposits of accessible weapons usable materials that could pose dire threats to future populations, loss of credibility of nuclear technology in the United States, and U.S. nuclear policies that constrain collaborative research and development among nations that are needed to assure best controls and safeguards for nuclear materials and technology.

The twenty-two-year moratorium on advancement of nuclear technology by a former world leader in the technology has constrained development of the systems that would have provided best assurances of national and international safeguards - and best assurances for national and global security. We live on a more dangerous planet because of the vacuous nuclear policies of the United States.

The indefinite accumulation of plutonium-containing spent fuel, or its "disposal" in geologic formations is a proliferation threat that increases with time, as short lived fission products decay. The short-lived fission products in fresh spent fuel provide intensely penetrating radiation that limits access to plutonium, protects it from diversion, and makes reprocessing difficult. Some of the short-lived fission products are gaseous, and their release during reprocessing provides an indication of reprocessing activity - overt or covert. After decay of these short-lived radionuclides, separation of plutonium from spent fuel could be carried out in readily available processing equipment - such as that used for processing of dairy products - and could be carried out in a barn, garage or basement - without significant danger to those carrying out the operation and without significant risk of detection. Safeguards in perpetuity could limit this threat, but is not feasible and is not provided for by provisions of the U.S. Nuclear Waste Policy Act.

In order to avoid this perpetual threat, plutonium and other potential weapon usable materials must be removed from spent fuel, prior to its indefinite accumulation or "disposal" in a repository. The radiochemical processing steps for recovery of potentially weapons usable materials, and other materials that have potential for beneficial use - usually called reprocessing - can be carried out in well-designed facilities in secure locations, without a significant proliferation threat. All nations that use light water reactors recognize this need, except the United States and Sweden, and Sweden plans to discontinue use of nuclear power. Sweden requires a period of 100,000 years for "engineered containment" of the spent fuel; the United States requires only 10,000 years. In 100,000 years, plutonium remaining in the planned repository at Yucca Mountain in the United States would, after decay, be sufficient for about 7,000 nuclear weapons.

In best designs for reprocessing and spent fuel recycle, such as the "Spent LWR Fuel Recycle Complex" design integration study completed by DuPont in November 1978, plutonium would be "in-process" and contained within heavily reinforced concrete structures until removed from the well-safeguarded complex in the form of mixed-oxide fuel elements or assemblies. There would be no accumulation of separated plutonium, and diversion of plutonium from an in-process stream for inappropriate use would not be feasible, or even possible without significant modification which would be easily detected by electronic surveillance equipment or inspection. The final product fuel assemblies would be shipped under appropriate safeguards for recycle into reactors, where neutron irradiation would restore short-lived fission products that would preclude any credible threat of a plutonium diversion. The ultimate threat of proliferation from commercial nuclear power plant operation is greater from indefinite accumulation or unsafeguarded geologic "disposal" of unreprocessed spent fuel than from well managed, well engineered, well safeguarded reprocessing in a secure location.

The misunderstanding within the United States about the proliferation threat of reprocessing of spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants developed as an aftermath of India's detonation of a nuclear explosive manufactured from plutonium separated in a reprocessing plant built from reprocessing technology unwisely supplied by a national laboratory in the U.S. - and produced in a so-called "research" reactor unwisely supplied by Canada. India's Cirus Reactor is similar to one operated by Canada to produce plutonium for the U.S. nuclear weapon program under a U.S.-Canada mutual defense agreement.

There has never been a diversion or known attempt for diversion of plutonium from reprocessing of spent fuel from reactors dedicated to production of electricity, and it is unlikely that there will be, simply because it is easier to produce weapon usable materials in facilities dedicated to that mission. Pakistan and South Africa demonstrated the ease of undetected weapon material production through enrichment of uranium; India produced plutonium for its nuclear weapon program because India had been provided with a weapon grade plutonium production complex, and was allowed to operate that complex without international controls on plutonium.

Deferral of reprocessing by the United States has not resulted in other nations following that example; failure of the United States to proceed with reprocessing of commercial spent fuel and use of plutonium with its "world-best" technology, and failure to share that technology with other nations, has decreased global security, limited nuclear material controls and best safeguards, and led to serious and difficult problems in the United States.

It is time for leaders of the United States to reevaluate systems for management of nuclear technology in the U.S. and abroad, discard those that have led to failures, and hold on to, reinstate, or install those that have worked best. As an initial idea, the United States should follow the lead of most other nations and create a corporate structure "The United States Nuclear Material Resources Corporation" (USNMRC) for management of government nuclear programs that would have the continuity that is essential for quality, and build the corporate memory and organizational strengths that are essential for appropriate management of complex technology.

This corporation would:

- take responsibility for three major DOE nuclear sites, three major laboratory sites and other sites as appropriate, continue programs at these unique sites for environmental and ecological research and other productive uses;
- with government, corporate, or other funding as appropriate, operate nuclear reactors and other facilities needed for production, fabrication, and recycle of nuclear materials needed for defense, space exploration, medicine, industry, research, energy development, and other purposes, or assure that these materials are available from competent private corporations;
- through transfer of the DOE Nuclear Waste Fund, continuing payments into this fund, and funding as now planned for environmental management, manage the by-products of nuclear fission processes (so-called high level radioactive wastes), receive and store spent nuclear fuel, recover actinide element and fission fragments and make them available for beneficial uses, accept low level radioactive wastes for isolation and stabilization at appropriate charges from medical, industrial, education, government, and other organizations, and continue cost beneficial environmental management efforts that are needed to ensure health and safety for all life forms;
- assure that all potentially weapon usable nuclear materials (uranium, plutonium, neptunium, etc.) in excess of military requirements are used in nuclear reactors to recover energy values and render these materials inaccessible for diversion for unintended uses;
- in collaboration with organizations in the U.S. and abroad, including shared funding and shared potential for profit, carry out and/or sponsor research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor and fuel cycle concepts;
- in conjunction with the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine, and others as appropriate, function as a source of accurate information on nuclear technology for American Citizens, political leaders, other government organizations, and commercial organizations; and
- in partnership with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, facilitate the development of improved technical bases that will service as the basis for cost effective regulatory standards that will assure best safety for nuclear activities.

The ten - fifteen members of the Board of Directors of this corporation would be selected by The President, with staggering terms. Half of the members should be career employees of the corporation; others would be selected from industry, universities, the military, political leaders, unions, laboratories, or space programs. This corporation would be managed with best and most advanced quality principles, including full partnerships between labor and management.

Need: Better systems for development of policies - the United States Nuclear Technology Policy Board

During the summer of 1995, an American Nuclear Society (ANS) Special Panel on Plutonium issued a report which provides an excellent framework for actions that would lead to more viable use of nuclear technology in the United States - but the report is being ignored.

Since 1974, nuclear policies have been developed in the United States through study by the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress (OTA), by White House staff sometimes through interagency review and sometimes not, and by the Department of Energy - often with little input based on experience. White House and DOE developed policies change, often drastically, from one administration to the next or as a result of changes in White House or Department of Energy senior staff, thus there is little chance for the continuity that is essential for quality. Quality of OTA staff work was such that the organization has been abolished. The result of U.S. nuclear policies over the past 22 years is a nuclear vacuum, which is dangerous and expensive, particularly for a nation that had been and should be a world leader in nuclear technology.

Members of the ANS special panel for plutonium were appointed by the President of ANS. If they had been appointed by President Bill Clinton with the advice and consent of Congress - same Panel and members, same recommendations - we would be starting a move forward toward safer, more cost effective, and more beneficial use of nuclear technology.

The Congress should enact and The President should sign legislation creating "The United States Nuclear Technology Policy Board" whose seven members would be appointed by The President with the advice and consent of The Congress. The members would be individuals with extensive experience in or highly knowledgeable of nuclear technology such as Nobel Laureate Glenn Seaborg or Harvard Physics Professor Richard Wilson; a senior technical executive of an industrial organization with a strong commitment to safe operations and quality, such as DuPont; a political leader such as Senator Pete Domenici or Senator Frank Murkowski; NTEU National President Bob Tobias or AFL-CIO President John Sweeney; Nuclear Energy Institute President Joe Colvin; American Medical Association Vice President Jim Allen; former American Nuclear Society President Alan Waltar; former General Electric Nuclear Division vice-president Bert Wolfe; designees of the Secretary of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; former Ambassador Tom Pickering; and CIA Director John Deutch. This board would meet periodically to review government and commercial nuclear programs and lay out long term nuclear strategies for the nation.

Need: Management for beneficial use of all nuclear materials instead of their disposal

Funding for the research that led to the discovery of nuclear fission was provided by a chemical company, not for military or energy uses but for radiochemicals for medical applications. In the U.S. today, medical use is the greatest beneficiary of nuclear technology. The narrow focus on a single product of most uses of nuclear fission and categorization of all other potentially valuable products as "waste" has led not only to denial of great benefits, but also the accumulation of potentially dangerous "wastes" - whose "disposal" in geologic formations would not be a responsible action. Unreprocessed spent fuel from commercial nuclear power plants contains potentially weapon usable materials that would be available for recovery and use or misuse for tens of millions of years. Recycle of nuclear materials for beneficial use would not only eliminate this threat, but would supply much needed electricity for hundreds of thousands of years.

In the first use of nuclear fission, during World War II, only plutonium was recovered; unused uranium and all other actinide elements and fission products were discarded as waste. Later, because of shortages, uranium was recovered and recycled for production of weapon plutonium. Beginning in the late 1950s, neptunium-237 was recovered from AEC radiochemical processing plant waste streams and irradiated to produce plutonium-238 for a possible weapon application. The weapon application was not feasible, but the plutonium-238 produced was used to supply power for instruments aboard space craft - and is now essential to exploration of deep space. Neptunium-237 has a high fission cross section and thus has potential for use as a nuclear explosive - and with a two-million year half-life, this material would be available for potential misuse unless recovered and irradiated for production of plutonium-238 or electricity.

Cesium-137, the major intensely radioactive constituent of spent fuel and high level radioactive waste, was recovered from waste streams at Hanford in order to reduce heat generation in tanks intended for long-term isolation of these wastes - and now has great value as an intensely radioactive source. The need for food irradiation to prevent E-Coli infections, and blood plasma irradiation to prevent spread of AIDS type viruses, could lead to greatly increased demands for cesium-137.

All products of nuclear fission processes have potential value; many have great value. By recovering and using these products for beneficial purposes, adverse impact on the environment is diminished, and potential for inappropriate diversion and misuse for destructive purposes is eliminated.

Need: Openness, and full and accurate information to the public

Secretary Hazel O'Leary brought an open process to the Department of Energy. It's a great need for nuclear technology, similar to that brought to the United States Atomic Energy Commission by Chairmen Glenn Seaborg and Dixy Lee Ray. We must institutionalize that openness.

One of the most important benefits of our democratic government is the opportunity it affords for full participation in major decision processes by all of its citizens. But this benefit can only be realized through an informed citizenry. It is essential that systems and processes be installed that insure best possible, timely and fully understandable information is provided to the public on all aspects of nuclear technology.

Need: Strong collaborative research and development programs by the United States with other nations for best systems for beneficial, efficient and safe use of nuclear technology

Nuclear technology and nuclear materials, and information on the great benefits of their use, are available to virtually every nation on this planet. Growing populations, developing prosperity among nations, and increasing awareness of global interactions of energy with the environment will lead to increased demands by leaders and citizens of all nations for full and efficient use of nuclear technology. Best assurances of safeguards against diversion of potentially weapon usable materials and safe operations to preclude releases of potentially damaging radioactive materials into global atmospheres can only be achieved through collaborative research, development, and demonstration among nations. Denial of nuclear technology to nations that have strong nuclear programs for beneficial purposes will ultimately limit best safeguards, best systems for environmental protection, and most efficient and cost-effective use of nuclear technology.

Conclusions

The Systems that are needed by the United States to insure that safe, non-polluting and cost-effective nuclear technology is fully utilized for the benefit of its citizens and all mankind include:

- Adoption of partnership processes between labor and management, and between regulators and regulated organizations for assurance of safety and resolution of differences;
- the United States Nuclear Material Resources Corporation, a corporate structure with full commitment to best quality principles, including continuity, for management of government nuclear programs;
- the United States Technology Policy Board, whose members are appointed by The President with the advice and consent of The Senate that would meet periodically to recommend or establish long-range nuclear policies;
- management for beneficial use of all nuclear materials instead of their disposal;
- openness and full and accurate information to the public on all activities; and
- strong programs for research, development and demonstration in collaboration with other nations for advanced nuclear systems for beneficial, efficient and safe use of nuclear technology, including improved safeguards and other assurances to preclude diversion of nuclear material for inappropriate uses.

The nuclear fission process provides tens of millions of times the energy output of combustion of conventional fuels such as coal, natural gas, petroleum, wood, and biomass and can meet energy needs with much less adverse impact on the environment. The valuable products of the fission process have potential for great benefit, but the approach needed is good management of these products and not their disposal.

With nuclear technology, much more can be done with less. But best systems are needed for cost-effective management; assurances of safety, safeguards and environmental protection; and development of policies for its use. We must assure that best systems are provided, maintained, and improved, and that there is full collaboration among nations for beneficial use and not misuse of nuclear technology.

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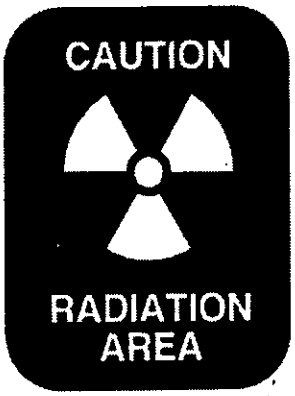
NUCLEAR ENERGY

Natural levels of isotopes are normal and even good for us

Sara Barczak claims "there is no totally safe dose of radiation." She cited Karl Morgan as her authority, and she was more than 10 years out of date ("Radioactive contamination," Viewpoints, Dec. 20). In fact, we live in a radioactive world, carry natural levels of radioactive isotopes, and this exposure is good for us. It turns on the defense mechanisms in our living cells, which find and correct genetic errors and guard against cancer. We need some exposure to ionizing radiation just as we need some intake of trace elements and vitamins.



Art Today

Atomic explosives are a threat to life, but panicking at the word "radiation" does not make sense. You might as well refuse to drink water because you can drown in it. When you give a baby a hug, you give it a dose of ionizing radiation from the radioactive potassium in your body.

GEORGE G. BERG
Atlanta

Material doesn't pose threat

The radiation from slightly contaminated material proposed for unrestricted public use by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is many thousands of times less than amounts ever known to cause adverse health effects to humans ("Radioactive contamination," Viewpoints, Dec. 20). It is also much less than the additional radiation received by residents of metro Atlanta from outer space, compared to that received by people who live at sea level.

The statement that it is a "generally accepted scientific fact . . . that there is no totally safe dose of radiation" has no scientific basis. The concept, called the Linear, No-Threshold hypothesis, extrapolates data from health effects at very high radiation exposures to very low exposures. It has been used for years by federal agencies — and some scientists — to overstate dangers of radiation and justify many billions of dollars of appropriations to protect against nonexistent dangers. No one would suffer from the small amount of radioactivity in the materials proposed for reuse.

CLINTON BASTIN

Bastin, of Avondale Estates, is retired from the U.S. Department of Energy, where he worked as a chemical engineer in nuclear programs.

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Guest Editorial by Clinton Bastin

EIS000815

New Approach Needed for Wise Use of Nuclear Power and Waste

The factual information in Audrey Lowe's article about the outstanding safety of shipment of nuclear waste (and spent nuclear fuel) is belied by Mike Swain's cartoon which falsely shows nuclear waste packaged for shipment as a boiling liquid in a fragile, open container (*Community Review*, Nov. 4). "A picture is worth a thousand words;" many will see the cartoon but not read the article; and misperception of dangers will be confirmed.

"Nuclear waste" (high-level radioactive waste) consists of the radioactive fission products left behind from chemical processing (reprocessing) of spent nuclear fuel for recovery of fissionable materials, particularly uranium, plutonium, and neptunium. The nuclear waste being considered for shipment to Yucca Mountain in Nevada is a product of Department of Energy (DOE) reprocessing for nuclear materials production, such as that at the Savannah River Site in South Carolina. This waste has been safely stored as a liquid or solid salt for up to 45 years in double-shell carbon-steel tanks surrounded by massive reinforced concrete structures; during this time most of the intensely radioactive, high-heat fission products have decayed. The radioactive waste at SRS is being "vitrified" - i.e., mixed with molten glass which is then placed in 3/4-inch thick stainless-steel containers where it cools into a strong solid glass which is very resistant to the leaching of radioactive materials. The canisters are then sealed and stored. For shipment to Nevada, the present concept is that the canisters would be placed inside 4-inch thick carbon-steel containers which would be sealed and then inserted into shipping casks, which have designs similar to those safely used for more than 46 years for shipments of spent nuclear fuel.

Spent nuclear fuel being considered for shipment from nuclear power plants on CSX rail lines through Decatur consists of ceramic pellets stacked like poker chips inside strong metal tubes; several tubes connected in parallel make up a fuel assembly. Spent fuel contains both radioactive fission products and fissionable materials that can be further used for energy production, or for weapons or source material for weapons. All nations began nuclear power programs with the full understanding that fissionable materials would be recovered and used in the production of electricity so that radioactive wastes could be disposed of without need for permanent safeguards — which would not be possible. Unfortunately, the United States lost sight of this essential need. The plan of the Department of Energy to dispose of spent nuclear fuel at Yucca Mountain is not a responsible action, because it:

- Denies use of an energy resource that could be used to supply all of the electricity needs for the United States for 10,000 years, without release of pollutants that poison our air or greenhouse gases that threaten catastrophic climatic changes; and
- Creates geologic deposits of weapons material that could be easily recovered after a few hundred years decay of radioactive material, and misused for catastrophic destruction.

Because of this dilemma and other problems for our environmental and energy future, Senate Energy Chairman Frank Murkowski and Budget Chairman Pete Domenici have proposed "A New Approach" for use of nuclear technology in the United States. Some new approaches include:

- Management for beneficial use of nuclear materials instead of their disposals, which may eliminate the need for shipment of spent nuclear fuel to Nevada;
- Openness and full and accurate information to the public on all nuclear activities;
- Collaboration among nations for peaceful uses of nuclear technology so that best safeguards will be available to preclude diversion of nuclear materials for inappropriate uses; and
- Quality corporate instead of dysfunctional DOE management for nuclear programs.

Hopefully Americans will support Senators Domenici and Murkowski for the implementation of a new approach for uses of nuclear technology.

Clinton Bastin
Avondale Estates

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Enclosure 6

Letter to the editor from Clinton Bastin to *Community Review*, January 3, 2000

Glenn Carroll is right; Americans will make the ultimate decisions on use of nuclear technology (Letters, December 2). Well-informed Americans will make the best decisions.

Nobel Laureate Glenn Seaborg understood the message of Albert Einstein "To the village square we must carry the facts about atomic energy...." When he was appointed Chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) by President John Kennedy in 1961, Dr. Seaborg began an important program to provide full and accurate information to Americans about nuclear technology. Information was provided about its benefits, its dangers and how they were safeguarded, releases of radioactivity to the environment, and any accidents. This program was continued by AEC Chairman James Schlesinger and strengthened by Chairman Dixy Lee Ray. If the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) had continued this program, Americans would know that:

- Nuclear power plants do not release pollutants or greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Therefore, increased use of nuclear power may be the best way to have a clean atmosphere and reduce levels of greenhouse gases to prevent catastrophic climatic changes.
- Increased safety achieved by utilities operating nuclear power plants, coordinated by the Atlanta-based Institute of Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), has made nuclear power one of humankind's safest endeavors. This increased safety was achieved through strong commitments to excellence in operations which also resulted in increased productivity. This permitted reduced use of fossil fuels and reduced emission of atmospheric pollutants and greenhouse gases of several per cent - in Georgia and throughout the United States.
- A companion organization, the World Association of Nuclear Operators (WANO), unites every commercial nuclear power plant in the world with similar commitments to excellence.
- While a Three Mile Island type accident is theoretically possible, it is extremely unlikely, and that accident did not result in significant radiation exposure to anyone. Persons that left the area received more radiation than those that stayed, because those that left moved to higher altitudes and to areas with much higher levels of radon. Residents of metro Atlanta, who live at 1050 feet above sea level, receive several millirem more radiation each year than those who live at sea level. This additional radiation is more than 100 times the radiation received by persons living within 50 miles of the Savannah River Plant from SRP emissions.
- Residents of Rocky Mountain States receive more than twice as much radiation as residents of Gulf Coast states, but, according to the American Cancer society, have lower incidences of cancer.
- Radiation is a form of energy, the major source of heat for our planet - from decay of radioactive materials in the Earth's molten core. Low levels of radiation warm; high levels burn. (I received six-million millirem of radiation to my face and throat to destroy a very aggressive cancer. The short-term effect was like a sunburn on my face and inside of my mouth and throat. The only effect five years later is that the cancer is gone.)
- Studies by the US National Academy of Sciences of descendants of survivors of the atom bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, show no increase in genetic defects.
- Nuclear technology is essential for best medical diagnosis and treatment, exploration of deep space, many industrial applications that are important to the health and well being of humankind and other life forms, and research for a better future.

- Nuclear power plant operation and its associated fuel cycle provide the basis for international safeguards for nuclear materials. Therefore well safeguarded nuclear power is not a proliferation threat, but the best solution to challenges of nuclear weapons proliferation.
- Reprocessing of spent fuel and recycle of weapons usable materials, including recycle into advanced nuclear power plants, permits destruction through beneficial use of all weapons usable material and source material for weapons. Thus well managed, well-safeguarded reprocessing and recycle is not a threat, but the ultimate solution to nuclear weapons proliferation. It is also essential for disposal (i.e., long term isolation from the biosphere) of radioactive wastes - i.e., unwanted fission products - from commercial nuclear power plants.

Unfortunately, the program for providing full and accurate information to Americans was canceled when AEC programs were transferred to the ERDA and later the DOE. As a consequence many Americans and their political leaders are misinformed about nuclear technology.

Dr. Seaborg also understood that the greatest potential danger of nuclear technology was from weapons material in the wrong hands being used as a nuclear explosive. Accordingly, he ordered a cutback in production of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium for weapons programs, and disposal of excess materials by their destruction through beneficial use. HEU was converted to low enriched uranium and used as fuel in commercial nuclear power plants. Plutonium, which cannot be made into nonexplosive material by isotopic dilution, was destroyed through its use in development programs; production of transplutonium materials such as Americium, Curium and Californium; and as mixed oxide fuel in commercial nuclear power plants.

During the late 1970s, the DOE reversed the AEC decision, restarted previously shutdown reactors for production of plutonium, and canceled programs for destruction of plutonium through beneficial, peaceful uses. This resulted in the huge excess of weapons plutonium that now exists in DOE inventories. The US also canceled programs for recovery and destruction through beneficial use of potential weapons materials in commercial spent fuels. This led to the accumulation of spent fuels in commercial nuclear power plants.

More than any person that I have known, Glenn Seaborg understood that nuclear dangers exist because nuclear materials and nuclear technology exist. Their use for the benefit of humankind, well managed and with best international safeguards, is the best and only assurance that they will not be used for catastrophic destruction. He had particular concern about the excess weapons plutonium in economically challenged Russia falling into the hands of terrorists and being used for catastrophic destruction, and understood the need for parity in the destruction of both US and Russian excess plutonium through its use as mixed oxide fuel in commercial nuclear power plants. As a chemist, Dr. Seaborg knew that processes to "immobilize" plutonium would not provide meaningful protection against its misuse. He would also agree with Ms. Carroll that the US should focus on appropriate long-term solutions for disposition of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuels.

Hopefully the US will soon adopt a new vision and a new approach to uses of nuclear technology that will include:

- quality management for all nuclear activities;
- full and accurate information to Americans about all aspects of nuclear technology;
- cooperation among nations to ensure best safety and safeguards for nuclear materials and technology, comparable to that for nuclear power plant operation by INPO and WANO; and
- resumption by the US of its appropriate role as a leader in the use and best safeguards for nuclear materials and technology.

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A New Year 2000 In Legislation

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Community REVIEW

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Legislators And Commissioners Consider County's Power Structure

by Howard Holden

In an interview last November, District Senator Nadine Thomas was emphatic about any legislation in the 2000 General Assembly aiming to change the structure of DeKalb County's government.

"I'm chair of [the Senate] State and Local Government Operations Committee," Thomas said. "Any piece of local legislation that comes through the general assembly has to have my signature on it, too. I'm not letting anything out concerning DeKalb government without an independent entity looking at it."

At the time, Thomas was still stinging from criticism surrounding a bill she had authored, SB207, which ultimately died in a referendum costing the County $121,000.00. The bill had begun as an effort to give DeKalb's Board of Commissioners more power in its relationship with the CEO, but on its tortuous path through the legislature its intent was inverted. If its final version had passed, it would have taken some of the BOC's power away.

Members of the BOC were highly critical of SB207, but a majority of them are still in favor of changing DeKalb's governmental structure. Some state legislators from DeKalb are also eager for a change, but some aren't. There will be more wrangling in both bodies before voters make the final decision.

Sen.Thomas isn't looking forward to the fight. She suggested the matter be studied by Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The personalities and politics must be removed from the process, Thomas said.

That may be difficult to do considering how involved some personalities are. Two current members of the BOC, Porter Sanford and Ken Davis are announced candidates for CEO in 2000, as is Rep. Vernon Jones. None of those three expressed a strong desire to change the balance of power anytime soon.

Not surprisingly, Commissioners Jackie Scott, Gale Waldorff, Elaine Boyer and Judy Yates have very clear changes in mind. Specifically, they have complained that the CEO both chairs the BOC meetings and sets their agenda. "Those are two important functions that a legislative body ought to be in charge of," Waldorff said. "We have an executive chairing our meetings and setting our agenda, and it's just not working."

That issue was the first and foremost addressed in a February 1999 letter from the DeKalb Civic Coalition to State legislators. The DCC letter was at least in part the impetus behind SB207, but the questions of who sets the agenda and who presides over meetings never made it into any version of the bill. Yet, some Representatives who have been criticized for signing SB207 say they are now behind the idea.

Continued on PAGE 10

Cox Advocates A Look At Health Issues

by Jane A. Zanca

When the Georgia legislature reconvenes on Jan. 10, it will take up a number of health matters and will be urged to look at several issues of particular concern to Secretary of State Cathy Cox. Here are some of the items to be examined:

The Cemetery Act And The Funeral Service Act

Secretary Cox heard so many complaints about the burial industries that her office sponsored public hearings in 1999. The results of those hearings are being compiled into proposed updates to existing legislation. Although the final document is still in preparation, Cox's proposal is certain to address the industries' increasingly aggressive marketing approaches and disclosure practices.

Once a "Mom and Pop" operation, funeral homes

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NEWS UPDATES

Y2K Reports From GEMA Show No Major Problems

At least 100 employees from dozens of state, local and federal agencies, public utilities and volunteer organizations were on duty in the Georgia Emergency Management Agency's (GEMA) State Operations Center (SOC) in southeast Atlanta to coordinate the response of state resources, including more than 5,000 personnel statewide, in the event any problems occurred.

At the stroke of midnight, nearly 800 entities, including local emergency management agencies, public safety organizations, healthcare facilities, and utilities began to submit status reports by phone, fax and e-mail. Within the first half hour of the new year, most of the utilities had checked in and positive reports had been filed by 91 counties.

There were no reports of utility disruptions, although some telephone service providers noted increased usage.

On Jan. 1, GEMA Director Gary W. McConnell said, "This is good news, but we are certainly aware that there could be some glitches or problems in the coming hours." At 7 a.m. the SOC had been activated. As the midnight hour moved westward, the SOC closely monitored conditions in other countries, but there were no immediate indications of problems.

Train Depot May Be Reborn As A Community Center

The old railroad depot in Decatur may soon be transformed into yet another kind of stopping place, a community center. For years, the little green building, also known as the Great Southeastern Freight Room stood as a beacon in the night for music lovers. During the day, hot, tired bike riders stopped in to cool their heels and rest up along with local workers patronizing the quaint restaurant for lunch.

With its doors closed for more than a year, speculation about the fate of the building has ranged from its demolition, to plans for cutting it in half and moving it to two separate locations. Owned by CSX railroad, the depot has fallen in disrepair over the years, so much so that it has been closed for more than a year. During that time, Decatur city officials have worked toward preserving the oldland mark through securing federal money for repairs. However, CSX, not wanting the liability that might come with someone getting injured on the rail tracks has been reluctant to cooperate.

Recently, the two entities have come to a meeting of the minds. CSX has agreed to give the city the 107-year-old building provided it is moved at least 20 feet away from tracks. City officials are now looking into

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the cost of moving the depot, repairing it and using it as a community center.

Applications Sought For Vacancy On Board Of Registrations And Elections

Applications are now being taken for a two-year member-at-large position that has become vacant on the DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections. This member is appointed by four other members on the board and must be a registered voter in DeKalb County.

The board is responsible for the conduct and certification of all elections and all voter registration in the county. It acts as the election superintendent for the county. Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, during election time, and on other occasions as needed.

All persons interested in this position should submit a resume with a letter of application to Board of Registrations and Elections, 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur GA 30032 or by FAX to 404/298-4038. The deadline for applications to be received is Feb. 7, 2000 at 4:30 p.m.

Clocks Atop The Old Courthouse Strike Again

Anyone passing through the Square of Decatur will be able to glance up and see the correct time now, thanks to the recent repairs on the old timepieces atop the Old Courthouse on the Square. This past New Year's Eve, revelers got a chance to see and hear the results of the painstaking work on the clocks by Greg Jones from Clockworks. *After their innards were put right and the* dials and the hands cleaned, the old clocks rang out 12 chimes at the stroke of midnight.

Believed to be among the few remaining hand-wound clocks in the country, the clocks, manufactured by the E. Howard Clock company are typical of castings made between the 1890 and 1910. The Old Courthouse is located in the City of Decatur at the intersection of Ponce de Leon Avenue and Clairemont Road.

Fall Programming For Community Center In South Decatur To Be Discussed

An open house will be held on Feb. 5 at 10 a.m. in south Decatur to discuss fall programming at the Community Center of South Decatur. Programs will include recreation and sports activities for children and young adults. Residents will be updated on the development in south Decatur and the old Scottish Rite Hospital property. The meeting will be held at the Elizabeth Wilson Community House, 317 W. Hill Street in south Decatur.

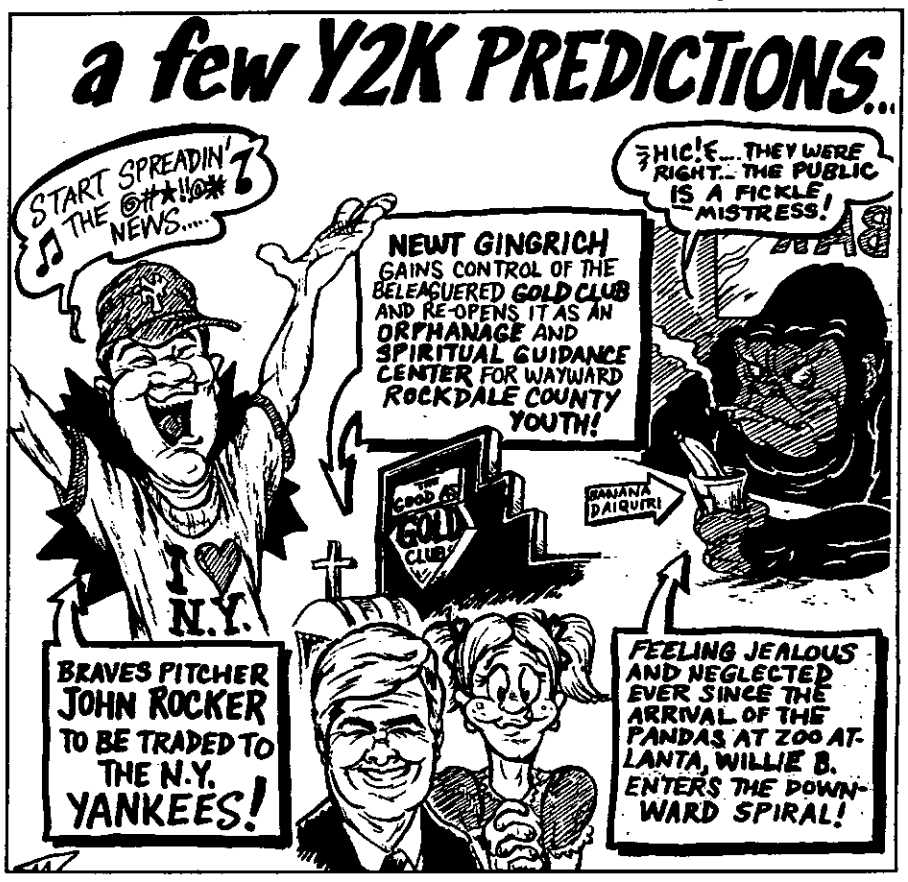
ARK Campaign Update

Robert Soens and Amani Bedford-Coleman of the Decatur ARK Campaign report that the first phase of their fundraising campaign was very successful. With a goal of raising $5,000 in individual donations by the end of 1999, the two report donations of $5,720.

These funds were presented to Heifer Project International at the Decatur New Year's Eve Party on the square. Their goal for the year 2000, raising an additional $15,000 in organizational and institutional donations has received a healthy kick-off thanks to Columbia Theological Seminary and Agnes Scott College.

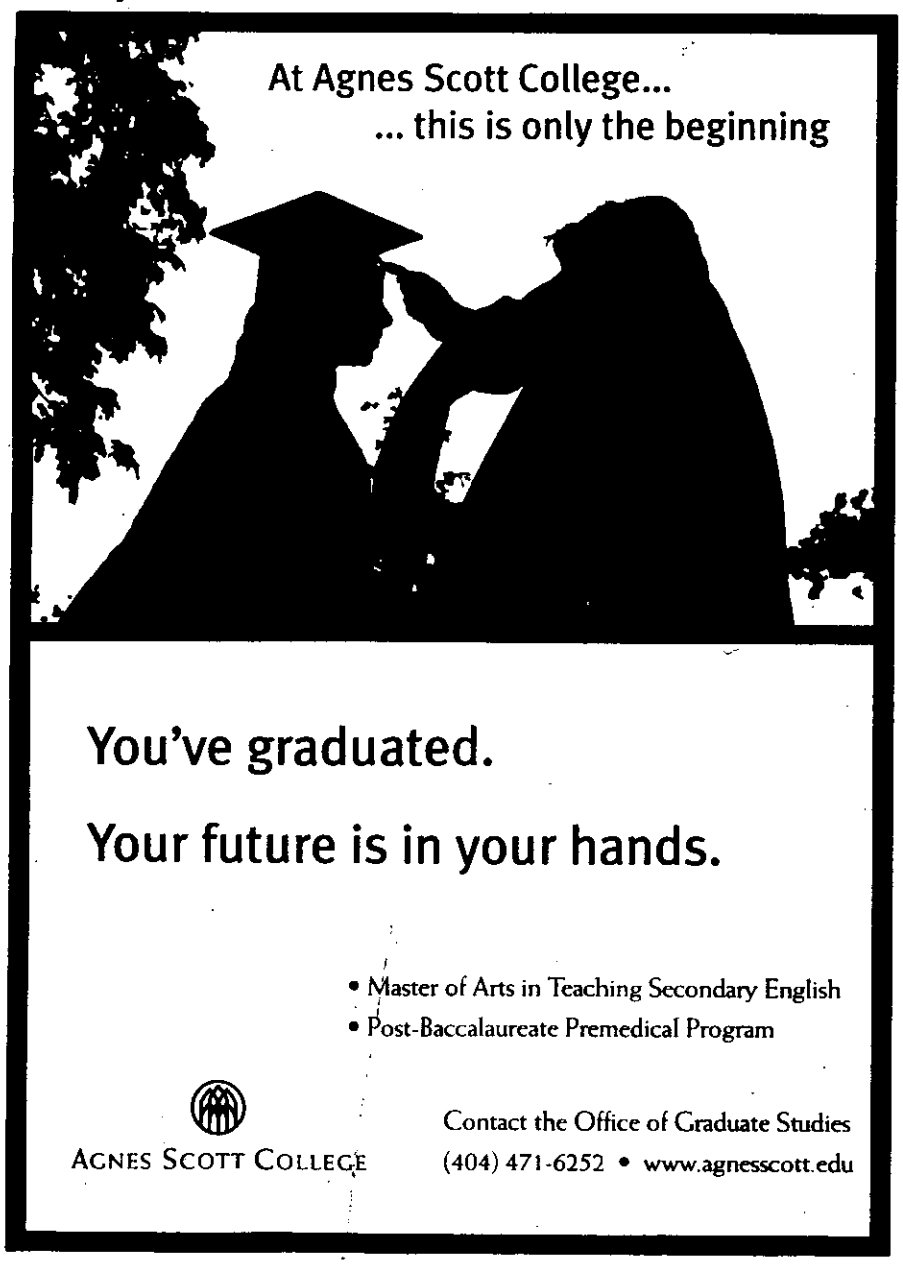
It is their hope that local civic organizations, churches, schools, businesses and neighborhood groups will contribute to reaching this worthy goal. All money goes to feeding the hungry in various communities around the world and is being donated in the name of the citizens of the city of Decatur. For more information call Robert Soens at 404/373-7027 or Amani Bedford-Coleman at 404/687-0173.

by Mike Swain



Decatur Neighborhoods Meet To Discuss Mutual Concerns

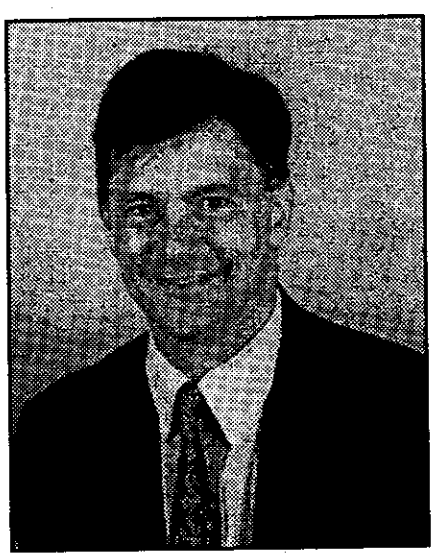
On January 12 the neighborhood associations of Winnona Park, MAK (McDonough St., Adams St., and Kings Highway) and South Candler will meet at Winnona Park School at 7 p.m. The meeting is organized and sponsored by Decatur commissioner John Ridley.



Legislative Priorities Of Central DeKalb's State Senators

Michael Polak
State Senator
District 42
(D)
319 LOB State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
404/656-5114
Employment: BellSouth

Committees
Science and Technology; chairman
Finance and Public Utilities
Health and Human Services
Consumer Affairs
MARTOC, Metro Atlanta Rapid Transit Oversight Committee



Michael Polak
State Senator
District 42

Senior Citizens

Levels of Long Term Care

Continue to push for legislation to give senior citizens more choices when they must choose long care facilities. The legislation creates an interim level of care between a personal care home and nursing home. The goal is to give senior citizens another choice to prevent premature placement in a nursing home when they only have limited healthcare needs (i.e. diabetes) and don't need 24 hour/7 day healthcare in a nursing home setting.

Consumer Centered Access

Creates a "one stop shopping" place for individuals and families to go when trying to get more information on long term care services available to them. The goal of the bill is to help individuals who need long term care to easily identify services available to allow them to live longer in their home or other non-institutional setting. If they do need institutional care, it would also give them those options as well.

Crime Prevention

Hate Crimes

Working with Sen. Vincent Fort to increase penalties for someone who violently attacks an individual or group of individuals because of that individual's religion, race, gender or sexual orientation. The bill is typically referred to as Hate Crimes legislation.

Property Tax Relief

HOST Revisions

Will propose legislation to give citizens in the cities in DeKalb equitable property tax relief from HOST funds as are gained from individuals living in unincorporated areas of DeKalb.

Environment

Clean Air Initiatives

Working with a number of environmental groups on developing incentives for the use of more environmentally friendly sources of energy in the state. Also, working with various governmental and private sector entities on the greater deployment of tele-commuting to allow individuals more opportunities to work at home.

Children

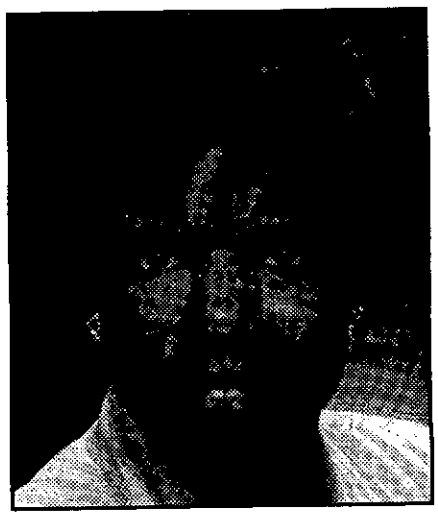
Funding

Pushing for increased funding through the Department of Human Resources for foster care, child support and a wide range of services for children with disabilities.

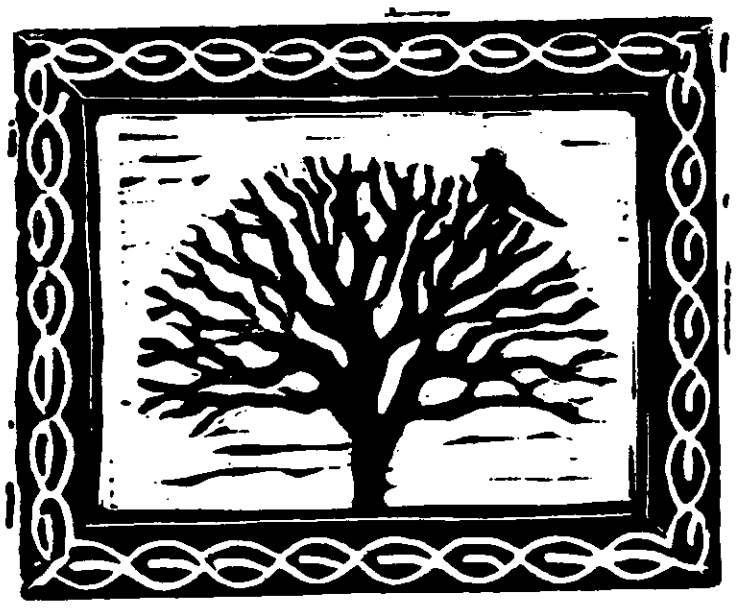
Campaign Financing Reform

Electronic Filing

Re-introduction of a bill to require electronic filing of campaign and lobbyist records so this information would be made available on the internet in a timely fashion. The goal of the bill is to give citizens more information on political candidates and elected officials. In addition, to give citizens a greater understanding of how campaigns are funded to drive the debate for campaign financing reform.



Nadine Thomas
State Senator
District 10



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Gloria Singleton Butler
State Senator
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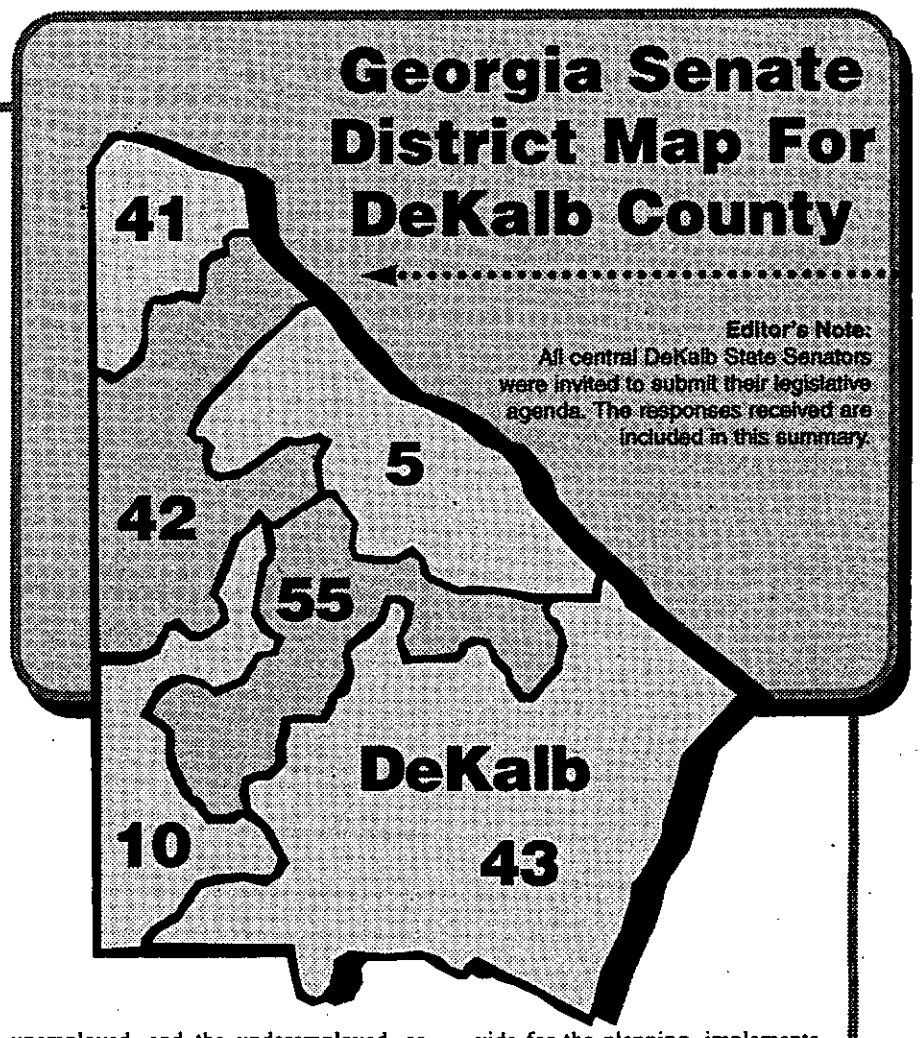
404-463-7868 (fax)

Committee Assignments
Education
Public Safety Retirement
Transportation

Appointments
MARTOC Overview Committee
Workforce Investment State Board

Gloria Singleton Butler
State Senator
District 55

Georgia Senate District Map For DeKalb County



Editor's Note:
All central DeKalb State Senators were invited to submit their legislative agenda. The responses received are included in this summary.

Butler's Legislative Agenda

"My main focus at this time is to provide funding for programs in my district. I will also concentrate on education and transportation, two hot topics for this session.

SB 211 - **Motor Vehicles and Traffic** (presently in a house committee) This bill provides that two points shall be assessed to a person's driving record for the following offenses: (1) failure to wear a seat safety belt; (2) failure to secure a seat safety belt on a minor; and (3) violation of the child safety restraint requirements.

Re-introduce SB 253 - **"Year 2000 Children's License Plate"** This bill provides for a "Year 2000 Children's License Plate" to be issued beginning Jan. 1, 2000 in celebration of the Year 2000 and will promote programs for children and adolescents with severe emotional problems. Some adjustments will be necessary for the date. There will either be a trust fund set up with funds derived from the special license plate fee, or appropriations from the general fund. The Department of Human Resources will administer the program for children and adolescents with severe emotional problems.

My recent appointment to the **Workforce Investment State Board** will give me the opportunity to render first-hand decisions regarding the kind of training that meets the needs of discouraged workers, the unemployed, and the underemployed, as well as workers seeking to enhance their skills for continued career advancement. In 1998, Congress passed into law the "Workforce Investment Act of 1998," for the purpose of preparing youth and adults for entry into the labor force and to provide for the planning, implementation and ongoing oversight of a comprehensive state workforce development system designed to improve workforce training, employment, literacy and vocational rehabilitation."

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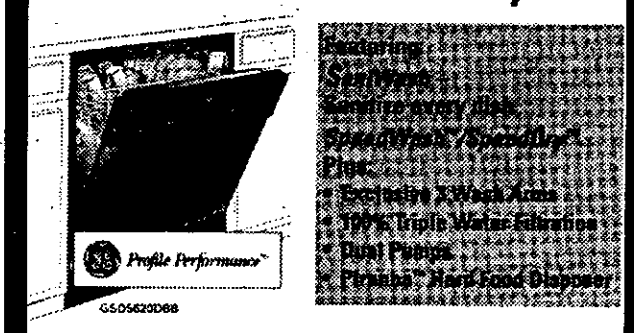

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Legislative Priorities Of Central DeKalb's State Representatives

Rep. Barbara J. Mobley
State Representative
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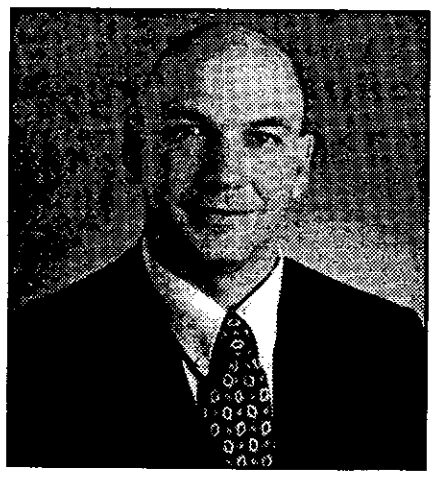
Attorney

Committee Assignments:
Special Judiciary, Vice Chair;
Transportation
University System of Georgia,
Secretary.

Rep. Barbara J. Mobley
State Representative
District 69

Mobley's Legislative Agenda

1. Certified Professional Midwifery
2. **Sexual Harassment in Work Place.** Only employees working for businesses with 13 or more employees can take action against sexual harrasment, leaving a big loop hole in the federal law. This bill would enable employees working for small firms to file charges if needed in their work place.
3. **Sexual Harassment in School Place.** This would help students feel more comfortable in school by providing laws to protect studen's against sexual harrasment in schools.
4. **Guilty Pleas for Aliens/Naturalized Citizens.** In the criminal justice system guilty pleas are often entered for aliens and naturalized citizens to speed their trials along. When this happens the offender often does not understand that some guilty pleas may have a negative effect on their immigration status later. For example, a guilty plea could be put under the heading of an aggravated felony by the Immigration Service which could be used as a means for alien or naturalized citizen's removal or deportation.
5. Emergency Highway Call Boxes
6. Due Care With Use of Cell Phones By Drivers.
7. Expanding deputy voter registration to Probation & Parole Officers
8. Auto dealer drive-out tags to be registered
9. Study on **Effectiveness of The Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity.** Often when complaints are filed they are lost in a paper maze for lengthy periods, sometimes years. This bill would expedite investigation into complaints about violations of equal opportunity.
10. HOPE Scholarships available to Pell Grant Recipients
11. Protective Barriers for some Convenience Stores
12. Funding For Georgia Stroke Partnership Program



Doug Teper
State Representative
District 61

Ethel Stephanie Stuckey
State Representative
District 67
(D)

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Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment

Ethel Stephanie Stuckey
State Representative
District 67

Stuckey's Legislative Agenda

Gender Equity in Sports: Kathy Ashe (R-Atlanta) and I are co-authoring legislation to implement federal Title IX guideline for sports funding at the state level. This will help insure that boys' and girls' athletic programs are equitably funded in Georgia.

Red Light Enforcement: I have agreed to be the House sponsor for Sen. Vincent Fort's bill to allow municipalities to install cameras in red lights to photograph violators. Motorists will be sent a citation in the mail not to exceed $100 and no points will be added to the offender's driver's license. The goal is to help reduce traffic fatalities and to provide greater crosswalk security for pedestrians.

Reforming Georgia's Rape Laws: I am the co-sponsor of House Bill 1074, which proposes two major changes to the current rape laws. First, the bill would create the new offense of aggravated sexual assault, which is defined as "assault with the intent to commit to commit rape, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated sexual battery," and is punishable by 5 to 20 years in prison. Second, the bill would redefine the offense of rape by removing the element of force and replacing it with lack of consent by the female. The change in definition will address the situation where the woman knows her attacker and the element of force is more difficult to prove and also where the woman is under the influence of what's commonly known as the "date rape" drug and lacks the ability to consent.

The bill, which was recommended by DeKalb District Attorney J. Tom Morgan and several Emory law students who worked in his office, will make it easier for prosecutors to obtain criminal convictions for rape and sexual assault cases, especially in date rape situations.

Juvenile Law Reform: I am a member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Law Reform, which held several meetings over the summer to study changes to our juvenile code and will work with Mary Squires (D-Gwinnett Co.) on implementing some of the recommendations from our meetings.

Arts Funding: I am considering a measure to establish a special license plate to generate funds for the arts in Georgia.

Senior Connections Funding: I am working with DeKalb-based Senior Connections on an appropriations request to help construct a major food service facility for

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seniors in DeKalb County. The facility will also partner with DeKalb Tech on providing vocational training and labor.

Probate Judges: I am sponsoring a bill to allow senior probate judges to continue serving on the bench past retirement.

Family Law: I am working on several family law issues, including providing for direct appeals in family law cases (which are currently subject to the discretionary appeals procedure), allowing for continuing jurisdiction in child custody cases, enacting provisions for relocating parents in custody modifications, and combining legitimization and custody matters (Georgia is the only state that does not provide for this).

DNA Evidence: After this summer's much publicized case where an inmate was absolved of any wrongdoing after serving 17 years for rape, I have been urged to introduce legislation requiring the preservation of critical evidence needed for DNA testing.

DUI Legislation: I also have a couple of "clean up" provisions to our DUI laws, which were recommended to me by a constituent and the GA Department of Public Safety.

June Hegstrom
State Representative
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E-mail: jhegstrom@earthlink.net
Occupation: Paralegal

Committees
Human Relations & Aging; chair
Legislative & Congressional Rea-reapportionment
University System of Georgia
Transportation

June Hegstrom
State Representative
District 66

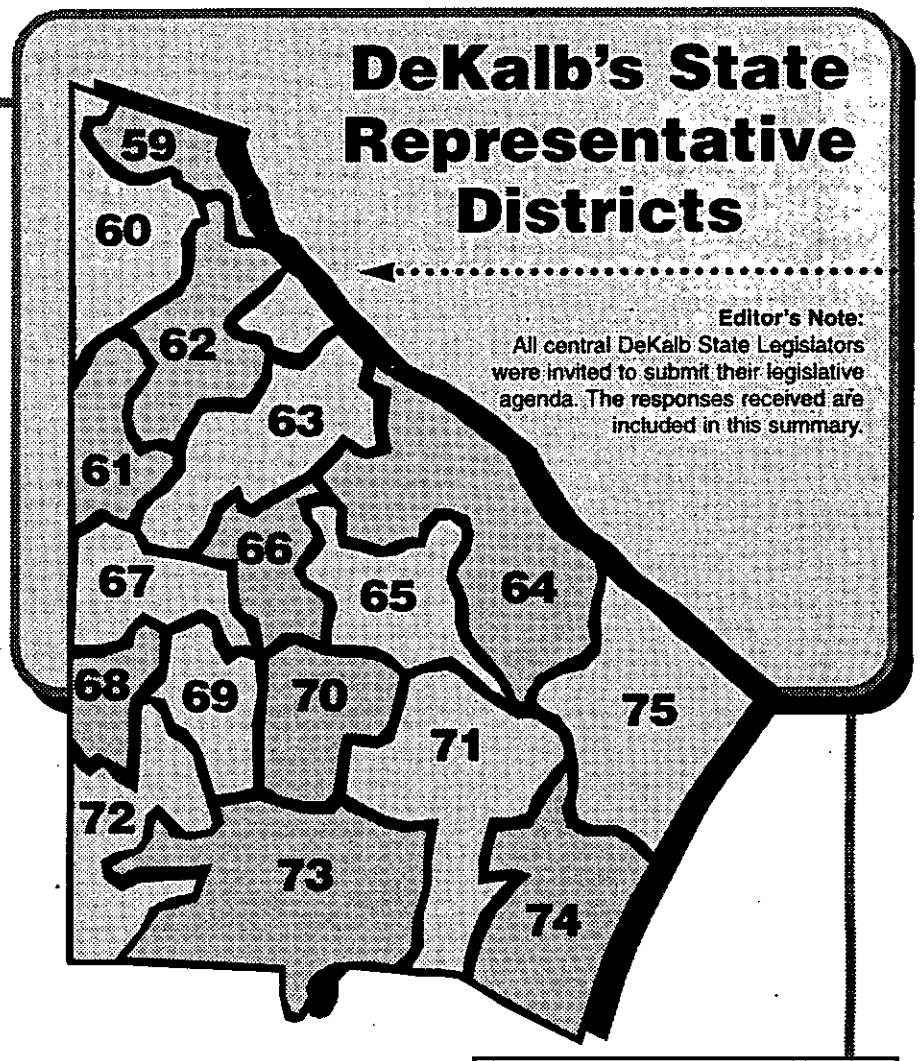
Hegstrom's Legislative Agenda

Pedestrian Safety
Strengthen crosswalk definition and strengthen training and enforcement for pedestrian right of-way. In the Atlanta area there are many pedestrian crossings that are poorly marked. This bill would shore up pedestrian safety by marking crosswalks in an easily recognizable way and encourage law officers to ticket drivers who do not yield to pedestrians and pedestrian violators.

Atlanta Regional Commission
Amend ARC structure to provide for direct election of some members and control by those members - amend ARC authority to assure an effective land use policy land use guide (Smart Growth). Currently ARC committee chairs are recommended by city commissioners, CEOs, and county commissioners. This change would allow citizens to be elected from districts according to a formula not determined by county, city boundaries.

Transportation Safety for Nuclear Waste
Transported through Georgia - adding inspection, training, and participation for waste transport. (see article page 8)

Handicap Parking Monitors
Strengthen the role of monitors. Handicapped monitors currently work with local law enforcement officials to ticket handicapped parking violators. During the last legislative term, a bill was passed stating that monitors "shall" be provided helmets and windbreakers to distinguish them. However some rural counties do not have the funds to buy the equipment. This bill would change the wording from "shall" to "may."



HB 245 and 251 Metro area planning & development commissions; amend provisions
HB998 Radioactive material; transportation PSC regulate.
HR 77 Senior Week at the Capitol; recognize
HR 85 Public school and colleges; urge change of certain mascots
HR 97 Federal budget; military funds; redistribute to states
HR 218 Louise Burroughs commended

Paul Jennings
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(404) 321-3158
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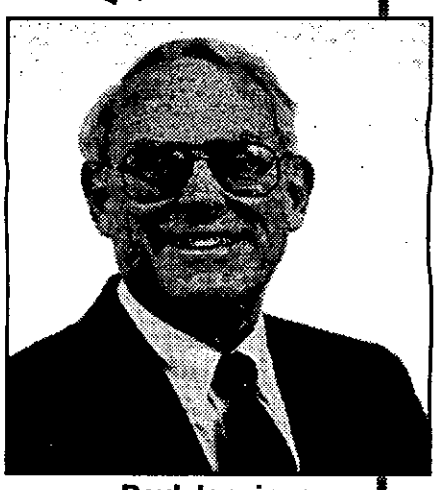
Retired Banker (Decatur Federal)

Committees
Transportation,
State Planning & Community Affairs
Health & Ecology



Paul Jennings
State Representative
District 63

Legislative Agenda

Education Reform
1. Make all schools safe for students, teachers and staff.
2. Re-institute discipline in the classroom.
3. Establish fair standards of academic performance and measure results regularly. Continued on PAGE 9

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Rep. Hegstrom Proposes Legislation To Regulate Shipment Of Nuclear Materials

by Audrey Lowe

While most of us have been oblivious to the hazards of radioactive waste materials criss-crossing our state, Clarkston's Rep. June Hegstrom has not. In fact, she's been so alert to the problem that she has drafted legislation to regulate the shipment of these materials through Georgia. And she's not alone in her concern; several other states are considering similar laws – among them Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota. In addition, regulating legislation passed both houses of California's legislature, but was killed by the Governor's veto. New Hampshire's bill made it all the way, though, and has since been signed into law.

Hegstrom's commitment to this issue arises out of her opposition to the Department of Energy's plan for a permanent repository for spent nuclear fuel (SNF) and high-level nuclear waste (HLW) in Yucca Mountain, Nevada. Not only does Hegstrom believe that long-term storage in a single facility is a dangerous concept; she also feels certain that moving these materials through 43 states on the way to Nevada is simply inviting trouble. And the Georgia legislator is not alone in her beliefs.

A fact sheet prepared by the State of Nevada Nuclear Waste Project Office in May, 1999 discusses the potential problems associated with long-term transportation of these materials: "While it is true that, since 1962, there have been no radioactive releases as a result of transportation accidents, the amount of waste shipped to a repository [at Yucca Mountain] in the first full year of operations alone will exceed the total amount shipped in the US for the past 30 years. In addition, the distances over which SNF and HLW would be shipped will be much greater than for past shipments, which have often been shorter transfers of spent fuel from one utility location to another."

The fact sheet warns that exposure to low-level radiation can occur when transport vehicles are forced to mix in with heavy traffic in urban areas. According to the fact sheet, "The potential effects of repeated exposures along highways and railroads during the 25-year repository emplacement phase have not been adequately addressed..."

In a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* article dated Dec. 9, 1999, Nuclear Projects Agency transportation consultant Robert Halstead said he is concerned about catastrophic accidents that could involve ruptured or damaged casks, quoting a 1986 report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that estimated it would cost $620 million to clean up a severe accident involving a cask that releases only a tiny fraction of its radionuclides. And with more than 35,000 shipments projected during the next several decades, Halstead said the likelihood of an accident involving the breach of a cask seems fairly certain.

Bill Would Regulate Routes And Require Trained Personnel

Hegstrom's bill, HB 998, proposes that all SNF and HLW shipments through Georgia be inspected at the earliest point of entry into the state. Shippers would be required to show proper insurance, carry special permits as well as nuclear incident prevention and clean-up plans, and be accompanied by trained emergency response personnel.

The bill also stipulates that truck shipments must move in convoys of five vehicles or more, and travel only on limited access roads, avoiding high population areas wherever possible. Rail shipments would be required to travel in a train dedicated to high-level nuclear waste or spent fuel cells; such a train would also be required to carry at least three emergency response personnel trained to deal with radiation accidents.

A similar version of HB998 was the subject of hearings when it was assigned to the Transportation Committee in 1996. However, a nuclear industry consultant brought in from California spoke against the measure, as well as a second representative from the national nuclear power lobby, and it was defeated in Committee.

Georgia PSC Currently Monitors Radioactive Shipments

Capt. Bruce Bugg, Hazardous Materials officer with Georgia's Public Service Commission, is directly involved on a daily basis with the movement of hazardous materials through the state. According to Bugg, small radioactive shipments move through Georgia every day; however, more than 99% of these products are radiopharmaceuticals and industrial radiographics, such as X-rays used to inspect pipe welds and measure material densities. Bugg said that in 1999, 22 casks containing SNF moved through Georgia, mostly from west to east, as the radioactive material was shipped to the Savannah River Plant for storage.

According to Bugg, Georgia currently follows regulations set forth by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in moving these materials across the state. NRC's regulations require that the Governor be notified in advance of the shipment, with date, time, mode and safeguards all clearly specified. All trucks must be escorted in urban areas, and these escorts are usually drawn from local law enforcement agencies. Bugg himself frequently provides the escort – something he's been doing for 12 years in his position with the PSC.

Bugg also described a stringent set of guidelines, called the Enhanced North American Inspection, which each truck, its driver and cargo must undergo at its point of departure, before setting out to move SNF or HLW across state lines. As soon as a truck carrying this material reaches the Georgia state line, the driver must notify the PSC of his location. In addition, the truck's movement can be picked up and tracked by satellite. When an escort officer meets up with the truck, he wears an electronic docimeter, a small device that "chirps" faster when it senses higher-than-normal levels of radiation; and six of the PSC's vehicles are outfitted with special equipment on their dashboards enabling them to monitor radiation as these truck shipments move along the highways.

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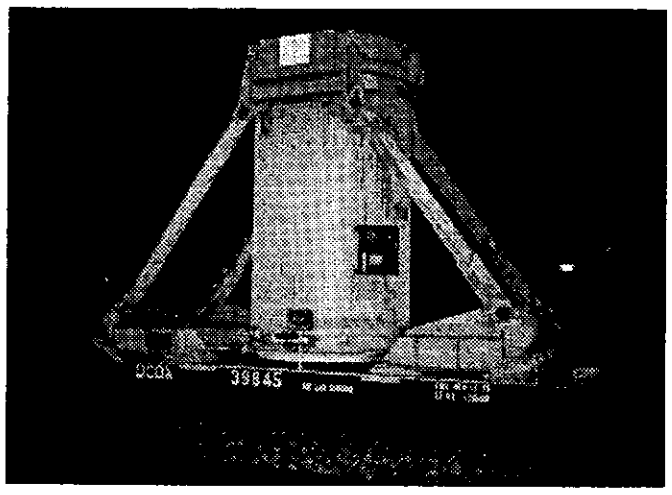

Submitted by GANE (Georgians Against Nuclear Energy), this photo was taken at 4 a.m. on June 4, 1994 when GANE member Kay Citron phographed the lightly guarded nuclear waste shipment as it remained at a standstill for several hours.

safety when it comes to transporting nuclear materials. "I have a personal stake in making sure it's safe. I grew up in Georgia. I went to Druid Hills High School, and have family all over, near the rail and truck lines that will move spent fuel and high level waste," he said.

DOT, PSC Have Reservations About Bill

As far as HB998 is concerned, Bugg said his agency has some reservations about it, because some of the bill's provisions may run afoul of existing federal regulations, a situation that could create problems instead of solving them. "States can regulate hazardous materials, provided that the regulations don't conflict with existing federal regulations, or require dual compliance," he said. And if a conflict occurs, Bugg said, the state's law could be pre-empted, in which case the PSC could lose its authority to control shipments through the state.

Hegstrom is aware of this possibility. In 1998, she asked officials at the US Department of Transportation to look over her proposed legislation and render an unofficial opinion.

In the agency's response, the Assistant Chief Counsel for Hazardous Materials Safety indicated that several provisions in her bill could be problematic. Citing the requirement that trucks travel in convoys of five, he suggested that the potential wait until five trucks were assembled could be grounds for pre-emption. He also suggested that a state law governing routes might conflict with routes set out by the Federal Highway Administration, and might therefore be pre-empted. Other problem areas identified by the DOT official involve the specific timing of advance notification, certain aspects of the permitting procedures and mandated driver training courses.

Despite these DOT interpretations, however, Hegstrom intends to go forward. "I expect in the Committee process we will look at any provisions that DOT and PSC are concerned about. We can discuss their objections and we can work through them. I hope the committee will pass it out, so we can get it to the floor for a vote," she said.

According to Hegstrom, public hearings on HB 998 will be held on Jan. 26 at 2:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Committee meeting in Room 216 of the Capitol Building.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

New Medications and Treatment Implications

Progress continues in the fight against rheumatoid arthritis. You can benefit from this progress at DeKalb Medical Center's free rheumatoid arthritis program on Saturday, January 29.

Rheumatologist Jefrey Lieberman, M.D., will present a program on the latest medical treatment options, and you can participate in panel discussions and exhibits as well. Join us for any or all of the activities.

Program Schedule

10 a.m.	Registration & Exhibits
10:15 a.m.	Presentation: Jefrey Lieberman, M.D.
10:45 a.m.	Question & Answer Session
11 a.m.	Movement Therapy Demonstration
11:15 a.m.	Patient Panel Discussion

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Continued from PAGE 7

4. Reward quality instruction.
5. Retrain or replace non-performing teachers.
6. End social promotion and grade inflation.
7. Encourage technical education as well as academic.
8. Graduate high school students prepared to work in the community or to succeed in college work.
9. Avoid sending DeKalb tax dollars away from DeKalb schools to provide for the needs of under-performing or disadvantaged rural school systems that do not tax their residents.

Allocation of Tobacco Funds

1. 100% of amount received should be allocated to health needs and stop-smoking efforts.
2. The tobacco farmer relief funds negotiated by Governor Barnes should be sufficient, and not be supplemented.
3. An excessively paid, unsuccessful ex-Tax Commissioner is not needed to distribute funds to tobacco farmers.
4. Direct funds toward keeping people in home-based care until institutions are the only possibility.
5. Reduce the waiting lists for those people approved for state health care assistance, who have waited for years.

Traffic Mobility

1. Synchronize traffic signals to speed traffic flow.
2. Consider banning trucks from I-285 during rush hours.
3. Develop commuter rail only if it will not transfer the current rail movement of freight to truck traffic on highways and streets.
4. Provide rationale and incentives, which will encourage commuters to carpool.

Maintain High Quality Environment And Water Resources

1. Encourage settlement of three-state water compact that serves future state needs.
2. Utilize sensors to determine air-polluters and enforce remedial action.
3. Encourage carpooling.
4. Find resources to fund the Governor's initiative to save more green space.

Review DeKalb County Government Organization For Possible Changes.

Specific Legislation That Will Be Introduced:

1. 100% relief from county residential property tax for DeKalb homeowners. - Contrary to the perception of most taxpayers, the first 20% of HOST revenue may be used for county capital uses, such as the new courthouse. My bill will ensure that DeKalb will fully benefit from any state-wide homestead tax credit, and then residential property owners will receive 100% exemption from county property tax. If revenue remains, the Commissioners may use up to 20% of the original amount for capital needs.
2. Pay of military personnel exempt from Georgia income tax while serving overseas. - Men and women protecting our nation in foreign lands should not be taxed in Georgia on their earnings while using no state services.
3. For Georgia income tax payers, equalize the interest paid for overpayments to the amount charged for underpayments. - Currently, if you underpay your income tax, you are charged 12% interest. If you overpay your tax you are granted interest at 9%. Both rates should be the same.

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Legislative Priorities

"My first priority, as always, is education.My second ones are economic and development issues which include housing rehabilitation and new development of homes in neighborhoods.I will also work to contribute to the health of the elderly. Sometimes elderly people are intimidated by doctors. When communication is difficult, it could lead to that person not getting the care they need. This is a scary aspect of HMOs. It is important for schools, churches, and neighborhoods in the community to work with the elderly population."

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General Assembly May Consider County's Power Structure

Continued From PAGE 10

Sally Harrell, the Representative from District 62 said she very much supported the commissioners running their own meetings. "I'll do anything in my power to make sure that happens," she said.

Representatives Stephanie Stuckey of District 67 and Paul Jennings of District 63 tentatively agreed. Stuckey said she supported the idea but stressed she would have to see any bill's language before sponsoring it. Jennings said he was inclined toward the commissioners' establishing the agenda as a whole, by majority, as well as rotating the chair of the commissioners. Jennings added that he also favored the removal of County Department heads from merit system protection, an issue addressed by SB207, and shared by Representatives June Hegstrom of District 66.

Other representatives had other suggestions. District 61's Doug Teeper, the head of the DeKalb delegation said he has never liked DeKalb's form of government. It doesn't foster consensus building or teamwork, Teeper said. He would like to see it return to a traditional five-member commission with a chair.

Rep. Barbara Mobley of District 69 said she had heard her constituents' complaints and is ready to discuss changes with her colleagues. But she also said "the personalities involved right now have a lot to do with the conflict between the CEO's position and the commissioners."

Personalities and political differences were also a concern of Rep. Vernon Jones of District 71 and candidate for CEO, who said changing the government before now would be premature. "I think the new CEO and the new BOC should request that the DeKalb Delegation review the form of government in the 2002 session," Jones said. "That gives an opportunity to see the new administration and how well they work together."

Whether the commissioners should preside over their own meetings and set their own agenda is even debated within BOC. Sanford indicated little concern over the matter, saying "It's unusual and it does look as if there might be some overlap in their duties, but I think that that can be worked out. It's not a burning issue to me."

Commissioner Davis wants the structure to stay the way it is. Commissioners have never had a problem getting items on the agenda, Davis stated. And if the CEO denies an item, it can still get on the agenda with the assent of four commissioners, he pointed out.

But Commissioner Yates recalled a time in 1993 when requested items were denied by the CEO. Yates hastened to add that the current CEO, Liane Levetan, has become more flexible since then. Another CEO might be less accommodating, Yates said, and she doesn't want a single individual to have the power to subdue another's idea. "I will always vote to put an item on the agenda, it doesn't matter what the

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Community Spirit Long A Part Of Decatur's Identity

by Christy Bardis

The New Year always brings thoughts and ambitions of growth. The magnitude of this January 1st was certainly accentuated by the exuberant construction and renovation currently taking place in Decatur. Growth was also prevalent during the first half of, what is now, this past century. *The DeKalb New Era* announced on January 12, 1911 that according to the Census, Decatur's population was up to 2,466, an increase of 73% from the previous decade — and a gigantic increase from 1870 when the city's population was only 401. The article states, "The community is to be congratulated more on account of the character and intelligence of our people than its percentage of increase." This blatant expression of pride in the community seems to have served as a stimulant for further growth.

Along with the increase in population, construction was continuously a part of the community's expansion. *The DeKalb New Era* announced on January 2, 1930: "Permits issued from the city hall show that there was a substantial amount of building done in Decatur in 1929. The volume of new construction for the year reached a total of $783,024." Ten years later on January 4, 1940, *The DeKalb New Era* reported, "Decatur's building permits for 1939 jumped nearly half a million dollars above permits of 1938, according to an annual report given the New Era this week by the city hall."

Why has so much growth taken place in Decatur? The answer can be found in a DeKalb New Era article from January 31, 1929, entitled "What Makes Decatur A Distinctive Community." The article begins by questioning what has attracted such excellent people to Decatur, and continues: "Ask most of them and you will be told that they were attracted to Decatur by its inviting home atmosphere. This home atmosphere is made up of unusual educational advantages, community character, and public opinion. These are intangible qualities, which are hard to define and yet are very real when they exist in such potent strength as they manifest here."

"It is easy to see that the large majority of those who have come to Decatur to make a home for themselves and their families discovered that Decatur as a community has an appealing identi-

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item is because I don't think that any issue should ever be squelched," she said. "When that issue comes up for a vote, it will either rise or fall on its merits. There should never be any censoring of items that go on the agenda."

If Yates thinks philosophically, Davis is practical minded. "Most of the agenda items are generated by the department heads coming out of the administration, Davis said. "All the purchasing items or contract renewals, things that come up every year." Taking the CEO out of the process would result in department heads shopping their ideas around to the commissioners, he added.

As for chairing BOC meetings, Davis pointed out that presiding involves nothing more than reading the agenda items. "Where's the power in that?," Davis wondered.

Waldorff's response is that the power is in perception. "People do not understand when they see the executive branch chairing the legislative body that there is any difference," she said, explaining that most of the calls commissioners get are for assistance with service problems that should be handled by the CEO's administration. "We are policy makers. We are not the managers of the government on a daily basis. So when you have an executive chairing a legislative branch, I think it gives a false impression of how this government works."

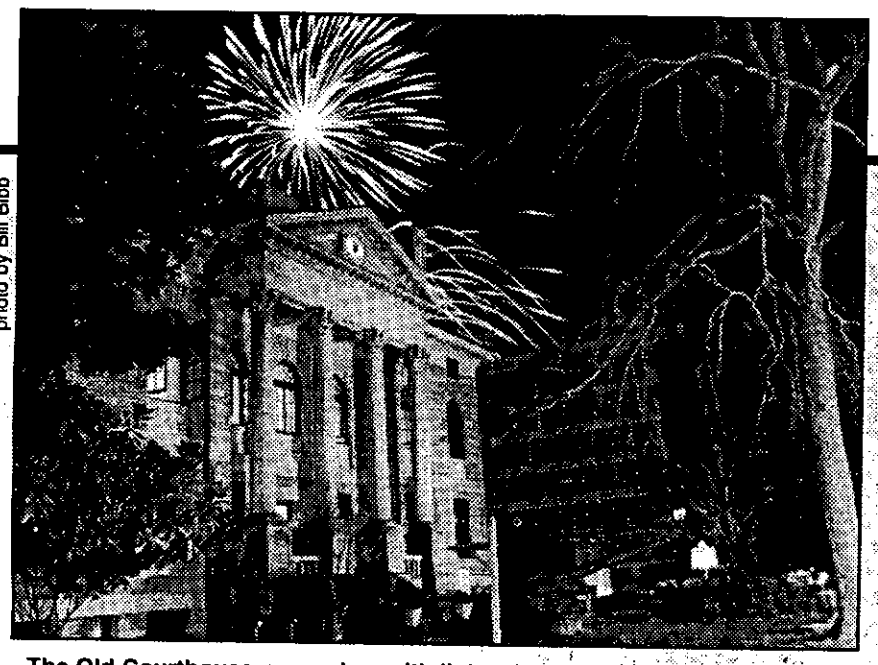

photo by Bill Bibb

The Old Courthouse was aglow with light when fireworks illuminated the Decatur skyline during this New Year's Eve celebration on the Square.

ty – something which we may call personality and community spirit..."

"The thing which we shall call the personality of Decatur was not acquired overnight. It is the fruitage of time – the outgrowth of a century of devotion to the intellectual advancement and spiritual welfare of this community. Thus it will be seen that the attractive identity of Decatur as a home community – an intellectual and cultural center – has been its greatest asset and is still the chief attraction which brings new citizens here. This chief asset of Decatur cannot be bought, sold, traded in the stock market, or carried away. It depends upon the kind of people who live here and their attitude toward the essential values of life."

"Decatur attained its high and enviable position among the communities of the south not as a suburban fragment of a large commercial city, but as a vigorous independent, municipal entity. In Decatur, its aims, ideals and aspirations are, known and well understood, and their protection and promotion are sought by all citizens who have the true interest of the community at heart. The people of Decatur feel in this community something more than a casual interest...One may find a house to shelter him and restaurants to feed him anywhere, but they may be lacking in home atmosphere and existence under such conditions might be entirely devoid of that remarkably helpful and stimulating thing we have called community spirit."

Now that we have entered the 21st century, growth may continue at a speed more rapid than could have been imagined in 1870 or 1929 or 1950. Though a lot may change, the driving force will remain the community spirit and ambitious drive that Decatur has possessed all along.

The Roth IRA: A New Twist On An Old Idea

by Sherman Jones

Thanks to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, saving for retirement may have gotten a little easier. That's because the comprehensive national tax legislation included enhancements to traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and importantly, the creation of a new type of IRA – the Roth IRA.

Named for Delaware Senator William Roth, who first introduced the concept for this savings vehicle, the Roth IRA takes the IRA notion of potentially tax-deductible, tax deferred investing and turns it around. Contributions to a Roth IRA are never tax deductible, but qualified withdrawals from the account including earnings and capital gains, are federal tax-free. That's right. The investment earning will never be taxed, as long as the account has been open for at least five tax years and you have reached age 59 1/2.

Here's how the Roth IRA works: anyone who is earning income or taxable alimony (received under decree of divorce or separation) can contribute up to $2,000 annually to a Roth IRA, assuming your adjusted gross income is not above $95,000 for single filers or $150,000 for couples filing jointly. Partial contributions are available for single filers earnings up to $110,000 and for couples filing jointly up to $160,000.

In addition to tax-free accumulation and withdrawals, Roth IRAs have other advantages over traditional IRAs. Unlike the traditional IRA, contributions to a Roth IRA may continue past age 70 1/2. In addition, you are not required to begin taking distributions at this age. Qualified early distributions (before age 59 1/2) from a Roth IRA are not subject to the 10% federal penalty or income tax as long as the Roth IRA has been opened for at least five years and the funds are withdrawn due to death or disability of the account holder. Legislators, surprising many, included one more qualified withdrawal for Roth IRA funds. After five years, you can withdraw up to $10,000 to pay for qualified first time home buying expenses for yourself or for certain family members. In addition, your contributions to the Roth IRA can be withdrawn tax-free at any time.

The tax-free aspects of the Roth IRA make this account most beneficial to people who have a long-term investing horizon – 20 years or more – or those who will be in a relatively high tax bracket when the time comes to withdraw IRA money. If you anticipate being in a low tax bracket during retirement years and can make full use of the tax-deductibility of a traditional IRA now, you may be better off with a traditional IRA rather than a Roth IRA.

If the Roth IRA and the prospect of tax-free earning fit your retirement savings strategy, you may want to consider rolling over your existing IRA into a Roth IRA. To avail yourself of this conversion option, your adjusted gross income must not exceed $100,000 in the year of conversion (not including the income you recognize as a result of converting your old IRA). The taxable amounts recognized as a result of the conversion are subject to ordinary income tax, but not the 10% federal penalty.

While the Roth IRA can be attractive potential retirement savings vehicle, it's wise to do some serious number crunching before you decide which type of IRA to fund, as well consulting your tax advisor for full details on the rules and restrictions of tax advantaged accounts. And as with other retirement savings and investment decisions, a professional financial advisor can help you decide which IRA makes the most sense for you.

Sherman Jones is a Financial Advisor in the Atlanta office of Prudential Securities and works with individuals and small businesses; his phone number is 404/842-9235 or 800/241-1910.

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Big Changes Proposed In Rape Legislation

by Georgia Moore

In January 1999, three Emory law students gave the effort to reform Georgia's rape laws an enormous push. They drafted new legislation and organized a panel discussion and open forum at Emory University on updating Georgia's rape laws. Now, with a number of rape-related bills being considered in the Georgia legislature, theirs and others' hard work in updating Georgia's rape laws is closer to fruition.

Rape Law Reform

Representatives Jim Martin, Stephanie Stuckey, and Doug Teper have introduced into the Georgia House a bill (HB 1074) that contains changes advocated by the Emory students who provided the first draft of this legislation. Two of the students, Cameron Wellborn and Rachel Brod, have since graduated Emory. The third, Jill Uiberall, is still working with the legislators on the bill, and the others are following the bill's progress.

The most significant change the bill contains is creation of a new category of offense called "aggravated sexual assault," said Martin, who is chair of the House Judiciary Committee. This offense is defined as assaulting another with the intent to commit rape, aggravated sodomy, or aggravated sexual battery.

"Aggravated sexual assault is a very serious crime," said Martin. "It carries a penalty of 5 to 20 years."

This new category of offense is needed because some juries have been reluctant to convict the accused of rape because of complicating factors, such as the victim having had a previous relationship with the accused, he said. Aggravated sexual assault is a lesser offense than rape but still carries a serious penalty; therefore, it allows juries to take action even if they aren't comfortable with convicting the accused of rape. In essence, it gives juries more flexibility and choices, which will lead to more convictions for sexual crimes, according to the bill's advocates.

"The rape crisis community is very much in support of this bill," Martin said. "It will have a lot of impact." Martin and partners are currently revising and finalizing the bill, and Martin said his goal is to get the bill out of the Judiciary Committee during this session and up for a vote.

Rape Prevention Education

Many are hoping that we won't have to make use of our rape laws, old or new, but instead, to prevent rape altogether through education. The DeKalb Rape Crisis Center, which has provided leadership for years in the effort to include rape prevention and healthy relationship curricula in schools, is one of them. The Georgia Senate is considering a bill (HB 171) already overwhelmingly passed by the House that requires the State Board of Education to develop, in conjunction with rape crisis and sexual assault centers, a rape prevention and personal safety education program for grades 8 through 12. The Board is also to encourage and provide for use of the program in schools.

Rape prevention and healthy relationship curricula created by the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center and other institutions are already being used in some Georgia schools, such as Decatur High School, but many other schools do not have such curricula or are reluctant to use them, said Virginia Vaughn of the DeKalb Rape Crisis Center. The new bill recognizes that schools need to deal with these topics and that rape crisis centers are available to help them, and it encourages schools to conduct the programs, she said.

Workplace Sexual Harassment

Federal sexual harassment law related to the workplace covers only businesses with 13 or more employees. In Georgia, however, there is no specific law that addresses sexual harassment in businesses with less than 13 employees, said Barbara Mobley, DeKalb representative and secretary of the House Special Judiciary Committee. Only tort law, which has a very high standard and requires proof of the violator's intent and state of mind at the time of the behavior in question, is applicable to these types of small businesses. That's why Mobley and others have introduced a bill (HB 311) that provides a cause of action for workplace sexual harassment for employees not covered by federal sexual harassment law. As it is currently written, the bill also requires the two parties in a suit to attend mediation as a condition for bringing the suit to state court.

The full text of these bills and their status can be found at the Georgia legislature's Internet site at http://www.state.ga.us/services/leg.

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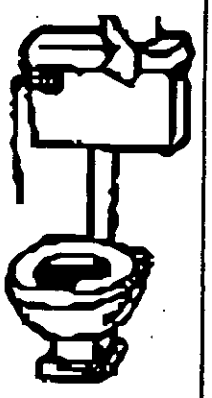

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EIS000815

DeKalb Agenda

County Administration Submits Requests To Legislature

When the Georgia General Assembly begins its 2000 session on January 10, the DeKalb County administration will be paying close attention to how its agenda items will be received by the County's legislative Delegation. Below are excerpts taken directly from DeKalb County's agenda.

Compensation Level Of CEO And The Board Of Commissioners

"The salary of the CEO should be set at 100 percent of the Superior Court Judges salary and the Board of Commissioners' salary should be set at 19 percent of the Superior Court Judges salary," the request states. Previously the salary of the Chief Executive Officer was a percent of the Superior Court Judge's salary and the Board of Commissioners was a percentage of the CEO salary. All other elected officials in the DeKalb County Government are tied to a percent of the Superior Court Judges salary. This proposal handles the establishment of the elected officials salaries in DeKalb County in the same manner.

Processing Fee For Discretionary And Local State Grant Funds

This bill would impose a processing fee on each grant awarded from state funds to DeKalb County groups. The fee would help pay for the considerable time and effort the county staff must spend dealing with the state, contracting with the recipients, reviewing the legal aspects of each grant and monitoring the recipients to make sure the monies are spent in accordance with their designation.

Sale Of Tobacco Products To Minors

Public Safety Director Thomas Brown has requested a change in the law regarding the sale of tobacco to minors. Currently the law allows officers to issue citations and release individuals who sell or distribute alcohol to minors. On the other hand, a person caught selling tobacco products to a minor must be physically arrested. "The disparity between the enforcement actions taken on the two laws needs to be remedied," the bill states.

Grant-in-Aid To Public Health

Cuts or redirection of grant-in-aid funds have resulted in the prioritizing of finances and human resources critical to the care of low-income urban populations, according to a request submitted by the Board of Health.

Some of these cuts jeopardize care to chronically ill children under the care of Children's Medical Services (CMS), a public health program for eligible recipients up to twenty years old.

"Because many of these children have complex medical, cardiac and orthopedic problems, the cost of care for these children is very high. Surgery for scolioses or a repair of a heart defect may run as high as $75,000 to $100,000 dollars for one child. Major surgery for one child can consume 40 to 80 percent of the annual funds allocated to a district," the request states. If the Department of Human Resources continues to fund Children's Medical Services, funding must be adequate to serve all the children in need.

Funding To Tag Agents For Modernization And Technology

County tag agents are experiencing steady increases in business volumes without the proper means or resources to hand the additional workload. The DeKalb County Tax Commissioner desires to have legislation enacted to allow county agents to retain a fee in the amount of .50 cents per license plate or revalidation decal issued and also to allow tags agents to r e tain a fee in the amount if .50 cents per title application processed. These fees would be dedicated to the acquisition and maintenance of modern business tools and automated technologies.

Child Endangerment

To enact a statute in response to child deaths experienced in Dekalb resulting from adult neglect, i.e. leaving loaded firearms withing easy access to children. A person convicted under this code section where no serious injury to a child under 16 years of age results shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. A person convicted under this code section where bodily injury or death to a child under the ge of 16 shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than five nor more than twenty years.

Obtaining And Disclosing Parcel Or Map Number

It is difficult for most counties to read meters and boundary descriptons of real property in a timely fashion and change ownership on all parcels conveyed. Requiring the parcel number on the disclosure form would greatly aid taxing authorities in sending returns, homestead applications and tax bills timely and to the proper parties.

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EIS000815

GMA Supports Coordination Of Water Resource Management With Land Use Planning

Whole Health Guide

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Excerpts From GMA Legislative Agenda For 2000 Legislative Platform

The Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) is the only state organization that represents municipal governments in Georgia. A voluntary non-profit organization based in Atlanta, GMA provides legislative advocacy, educational employee benefit and technical consulting services to its members.

Created in 1934, GMA's membership totals more than 470 municipal governments, accounting for more than 99% of the state's population. Composed entirely of city officials, the 56-member Board of Directors governs GMA. Program implementation is charged to the Executive Director and 62 full-time employees.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Annexation & Cross Country Annexation

• The issue of annexation, including the issue of zoning newly annexed property, has been under review by the joint GMA-ACCG Task Force on Annexation. Legislative recommendations, if complete, from this task force will be presented to the IGR Committee.

• GMA opposes any restriction on the ability of a city to grow through annexation across a county line.

Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax & Homestead Option Sales Tax

• As a matter of policy, GMA believes municipalities should have the same status and rights in the special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST) legislation as they have in the general purpose local option sales tax (LOST) legislation.

• GMA will oppose legislation amending the homestead option sales tax (HOST) law which would authorize a county to call for voter approval of a HOST if it had either a LOST or SPLOST.

Restriction On Municipal Powers

• GMA opposes any legislation which restricts the authority of municipalities to provide services which may also be provided by the private sector or which requires non-cost based fee increases for municipal services when similar services are also available from the private sector.

Utility Deregulation, Franchise Fees, Management Of Public Rights-Of-Way

• GMA opposes legislation which attempts to weaken the authority of Georgia's municipalities to regulate the use of their public rights-of-way, to collect franchise fees for such use, or to reduce the amount of revenue cities currently receive from the imposition of franchise fees.

MAJOR BUDGET PRIORITIES

Recreation & Conservation Funding

• GMA Supports the creation of a stable funding source for grants and low-interest loans for open space protection and acquisition and development of park areas and recreation facilities.

• GMA supports a minimum funding of $20 million for the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority water and wastewater loan program.

• GMA supports the EPD's request for additional appropriations to adequately staff its operations.

Public Safety Officer Training Funding

• GMA supports improving public safety officer training and state funding for local public safety training.

• GMA supports continuation of state funding for public safety officer training and additional funding for one week basic mandate training for local peace officers.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Resource Policy

• GMA supports equitable access by all Georgians to a reliable supply of good quality water, and supports legislation that would:

• Develop a comprehensive and clearly stated water strategy based on sound data;

• Refine the state water allocation process;

• Develop and enhance multi-jurisdictional water management perspective and capacity;

• Coordinate water resource management and protection with land use planning and management.

Citizen Lawsuits

• GMA opposes legislation which would authorize private citizens to initiate lawsuits to enforce compliance with state environmental statutes.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Service Delivery Strategy

• GMA urges cities and counties to act in good faith to resolve their difference and enter into a service delivery strategy agreement prior to the October 29, 1999 deadline if they have not already done so.

Immunity

• GMA pledges to work closely with the legislature to review and consider HB 1076 which would extend the State Tort Claims Act to cities.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

Homeowner Warranty Insurance

• GMA supports legislation which would give cities the option to require residential homebuilders to offer home warranty insurance to the owner of a home.

Code Enforcement Boards

• GMA supports legislation that allows cities and counties to create code enforcement boards which would be delegated the authority to impose administrative fines and other non-criminal penalties to enforce the codes and ordinances of a municipality or county.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Juvenile Curfews

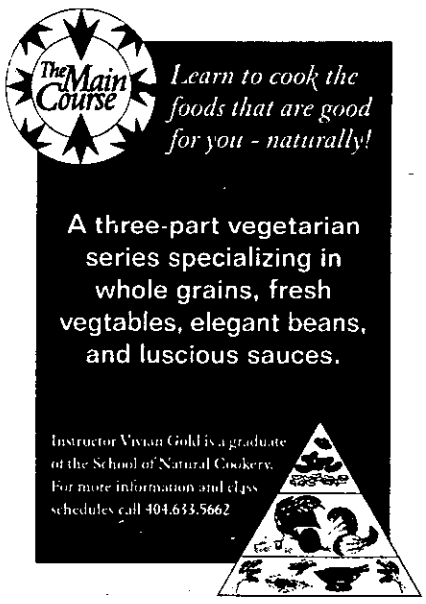
• GMA supports legislation recognizing and enforcing local government juvenile curfews within the juvenile court system.

Drug Interdiction Standards

• GMA supports law enforcement training and policies addressing legal, race-neutral standards for drug interdiction activity.

REVENUE & FINANCE

Insurance Premiums Taxation



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• If necessary to protect municipal revenue, GMA will oppose any legislation seeking to reduce municipal insurance premiums tax rates.

Sales Tax Administration & Exemptions

• GMA will monitor the Department of Revenue's modernization effort to ensure that the local option sales taxes are properly collected and remitted in a timely manner to local governments. GMA will oppose exemptions and support non-discriminatory application of the sales tax to maximize property tax relief.

Sales Ratio Studies - Municipal Tax Digest

• GMA will explore the feasibility of expanding the Department of Audit's authority to enable the Department to conduct sales ratio studies for municipalities with independent school systems upon the request of the municipal governing body.

Split-Rate Taxation

• GMA will continue to examine the benefits and costs of authorizing local governments to use split-rate taxation or land value taxation as a means to promote efficient use of urban land.

Financial Reporting

• To ensure the implementation of HB 491 (Uniform Chart of Accounts), GMA will take the following actions concerning state financial reporting requirements:

• Encourage the state to perform a statewide asset valuation of infrastructure as required by GASB Statement #34 (Governmental Accounting Standards Board requirement;

• Pursue legislation, if needed, to allow DCA flexibility in delaying implementation of the uniform chart of accounts to assure conformity with GASB Statement #34;

• Support development of a uniform chart of accounts for activities commonly accounted for in proprietary funds such as utilities, transportation and airports; and

• Continue to inform GMA's membership of deadlines concerning the Uniform Chart of Accounts and seek guidance and clarification from DCA on issues such as "crosswalking".

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Outdoor Advertising Billboard Height Restrictions

• GMA urges the Georgia Department of Transportation to reinstate maximum height restrictions on billboards used for outdoor advertising.

Decatur Mayor pro tem Andrew Harris is president of the Georgia Municipal Association.

OTHER BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Groundwater Studies

• GMA supports continued funding for multi-year groundwater research to develop scientifically based policies to provide for effective management of the problems in the Flint River Basin, Lake Seminole and the coastal Georgia.

FY 2000 & 2001 Budget Requests For State & Local Roads

• GMA urges the Governor and General Assembly to support funding requested by the department in the FY 2000 & 2001 budgets for the following programs:

• Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) - $225 million (general funds)

• LARP - $38.6 million (general funds)

• City-County Contracts - $30.6 million (5% of $605 million motor fuel tax collections)

FY 2000 & 2001 Budget Request For Commuter & Passenger Rail

GMA endorses the Department's FY 2000 budget improvement request for $1.3 million and FY 2001 budget request for $26 million for state matching funds to initiate planning and analysis in the Atlanta-Chattanooga, Atlanta-Athens, Atlanta-Griffin-Macon-Houston County and Marietta-Lawrenceville rail corridors, rail line acquisition in Macon and the multi-modal station and downtown capacity analysis in Atlanta. The Association also supports the Department's FY 2001 budget request of $7.3 million for rail acquisition and rehabilitation.

FY 2001 Budget Request For Airport Improvements

• GMA supports the Department's FY 2001 budget request for $29.3 million for the airport aid program.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Limits On Asset Forfeiture

• GMA is concerned that efforts to reform federal asset forfeiture statutes not impede the ability of local law enforcement to cut off access to cash and property for drug traffickers and other criminals.

Electronic Commerce (the Internet) & Mail Order Catalog Sales

• GMA opposes any action by Congress to resolve the electronic commerce and mail order sales issues until the Federal Electronic Commerce Advisory Commission has completed its deliberations. The Association opposes enactment of any legislation that unfairly discriminates against local merchants in favor of electronic commerce or mail order sales.

With regard to mail order sales, all vendors should be required to collect state and local sales taxes and remit these proceeds through the states to local governments. GMA supports the formation of a statewide commission which includes local government and main street business leaders to evaluate the impact of remote sales and make recommendations regarding Georgia's sales tax laws.

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Places of Worship

BAPTIST

First Baptist Church
47 Covington Rd. Avondale Estates, BA 30002
404/294-5284
Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Wednesday: Bible study for all ages 6:30 p.m. Thursday: Senior adult activities 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Oakhurst Baptist Church
222 East Lake Dr., Decatur
Lanny Peters, Pastor
404/378-3677
"Every member a minister"
Sunday Church School 9:30 am
Sunday Worship 11:00 am
Celebrating our diversity in one spirit.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

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446 Clairemont Ave., Decatur
Phone & Fax: 404/373-8383
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Website: http://www.houseofworship.com.webmaster@hows.net.

LUTHERAN

Lutheran Church of the Messiah
465 Clairemont Ave., Decatur
404/373-1682
Come join us for prayer, praise and promise.
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All ages Learning Hour 9:45 am.
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METHODIST

Avondale Pattillo United Methodist Church
3260 Covington Highway
404/294-4063
Rev. John Barnes, Pastor
Worship 11am; Sun. School 9:45 am
Youth Fellowship 5:30 pm
Avondale Christian School, grades 4,5,6,7,8 in Avondale Estates.

Belvedere United Methodist Church
2915 Midway Rd., Decatur 30030
404/289-5787
J.B. McNeil, Pastor
Worship 11:00 am;
Sunday School 9:45 - 10:45 am
Wednesday Night Supper 6:00 pm
An open spiritual community seeking to serve.

Decatur First United Methodist Church
300 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Decatur
404/378-4541
Dr. Thomas A. Green, Pastor
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Sunday School 9:45 am

Trinity United Methodist Church
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www.centralpresbyterianatl.org

Clairmont Presbyterian Church
1994 Clairmont Rd. 404-634-3355
Sunday School 9:30am; Worship 8:30am & 11am
"Discovering Real Life Together"
www.clairmontpres.org

Columbia Presbyterian
711 S. Columbia Dr., Decatur
404/284-2441
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.; Worship 11:00 a.m.
"Christ • Compassion • Community • Children"
Bill Nisbet and Tim Rogers-Martin, Ministers

Decatur Presbyterian Church
205 Sycamore St., Decatur
404/378-1777
Sunday school 9 a.m.
Sunday worship 10:15 a.m.
Sunday chapel service 6:30 p.m.
Sunday youth meeting 6:00 p.m.

Morningside Presbyterian Church
1411 N. Morningside Dr., Atlanta
404/876-7396
Good seats still available. Sundays at 11:00 am
Website: http://morningsidepc.home.mindspring.com

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church
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404/378-6284
Worship 11:00 am, Sunday School 10:00 am
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UCC/CONGREGATIONAL

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404/633-4505
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web: http/www.uuca.org

DeKalb's Municipalities Look To 2000

Municipal Agendas

by Jane Zanca

From sleepy hamlets to urban scapes, DeKalb County has it all. The *Community Review* recently spoke to represenatives from some of DeKalbCounty's municipalities about their plans for 2000. Here's what they had to say:

Decatur

Decatur won't miss a bustling beat in the new millennium. The city's Strategic Plan will continue to unfold, according to City Manager Peggy Merriss. The community's debate over the old Scottish Rite Hospital in South Decatur resulted in a three-phase plan. Certain to begin in 2000 is renovation of the historic hospital. Phases 2 and 3, housing for people with spinal injuries and fee-simple town homes, respectively, will continue to be negotiated.

Thanks to homestead option sales proceeds, Decatur's modern courthouse will gain an addition that is twice the size of the existing courthouse, but no new parking spaces. The City will address details of how the addition dovetails with the rest of the Strategic Plan, its hopes for a facelift to the modern courthouse facade, and what to do about the inevitable parking crunch.

Residents can expect a storm water fee assessment of approximately $60 per single-family household, to manage runoff. The City Commission, which Merriss describes as "committed to reducing taxes whenever possible," will consider tax questions in March. With Decatur's population growing at about 3% annually, attractive commercial redevelopment, completion of additional public improvements in Streetscapes phases 2 and 3, and a $2.5 million grant in hand for public improvements, property values are expected to continue to go up, she says.

Avondale Estates

At the top of Avondale Estates' millennium agenda is review and update of Avondale's central business district zoning ordinances, which date to the 1970s, said Mayor John Lawson. However, the mayor doesn't anticipate dramatic or jarring changes. For one thing, he noted, "We just don't have a lot of residential lots."

Development will be considered carefully, he said, as occurred in November, when Avondale approved a 12-unit town home development for the triangular plot of ground at Kensington and Covington Highway.

Despite growth through two recent annexations, Avondale remains a small, geographically contained area. Will Avondale annex again? That's a possibility, concedes the mayor, "although we have no particular area in mind."

"We have a substantial proportion of senior citizens," he continued, "but also an influx of families with children, due to the annexations." Children will be an important focus in the coming year. "There's money in the budget for a summer recreation program, and we'll continue city-sponsored efforts in public and private, primary and secondary schooling."

Like Decatur, Avondale has some Streetscapes projects in progress, and the second phase of these will be completed in 2000. Avondale has qualified for a substantial grant to help fund this project.

Early in the new year, the city will finalize expansion of its city hall. Undeveloped space on the second floor will be finished to house the police department, historic memorabilia, and a conference room. Residents can look forward to increasingly attractive surroundings, as improvements are completed under the Strategic Plan. "We pay a tremendous amount of attention to our infrastructure. That's what our residents are interested in," Mayor Lawson said.

Pine Lake

The tiny city of more than 800 citizens expects a boost from the year 2000 census, which should show the population is up to 830. Pine Lake is also hoping for a fresh start in 2000, after a run of bad publicity in 1999.

"Major [Alfred] Fowler is really dedicated to a new and kinder image," said City Clerk Mavis Crossley. "He's trying to get the city in better shape." Crossley anticipates some restructuring, to focus on reinterpretation of how laws should be applied to meet the citizens' wants and needs.

The census isn't all that's going up in Pine Lake. The public property upkeep tax of $25 per household is doubling. This fund is the sole source of support for maintenance of the city's private park, Crossley explaied.

Also going up is the sanitation tax, which, at $170 per year, will still be $18 less than the remainder of DeKalb County residents pay. This increase reflects increased service that will accommodate all trash pick-ups, including, for example, discarded appliances, but not debris from new construction and renovations. An increase in the city ad valorem tax is expected, but the amount has not yet been determined, according to Crossley.

Avondale Pattillo

Dr. Will Willimon, Dean of the Chapel at Duke University, will be preaching at Avondale Pattillo UMC Sunday, January 9 at the 11:00 service. Everyone is invited.

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Legislative Agenda For Seniors Seeks More Long-term Care Options

The following is the legislative agenda for the Coalition Advocates for Georgia's Elderly. CO-AGE includes more than 250 organizations and individuals including consumers, providers and persons across the state who are interested in issues that impact the senior population.

Abuse Of Vulnerable Adults

What This Legislation Would Do:
• Clearly establish that abusive acts against vulnerable adults constitute crimes;
• Strengthen criminal penalties in theft cases against perpetrators who violate their position of trust with vulnerable adult victims;
• Accommodate the special circumstances of adult abuse victims in the presentation of evidence of abuse;
• Raise awareness of law enforcement officers, courts, care providers, other professionals, consumers, and relatives about abuse of vulnerable adults.

Assisted Living
Senate Bill 13 and House Bill 758

What This Legislation Would Do:
• Change the term personal care homes to Assisted Living Facilities;
• Create a second level of care known as Assisted Living Level II that permits limited nursing assistance for residents;
• Authorize licensing and regulatory oversight for Assisted Living Level II;
• Reduce the number of people who are placed in a facility providing a level of care higher than is necessary because appropriate options are not available.

Consumer Centered Long-Term Care System
- S.B. 144

What This Legislation Would Do:
• Reduce the number of people prematurely placed in nursing homes because of consumers' lack of knowledge of other LTC services;
• Provide intake, screening, and education for people, regardless of income, who are seeking LTC services. Consumers would then choose their services;
• Provide uniform tools, assessment criteria, and information about all available services;
• Phase-in the implementation and budgeting of the consumer centered LTC system over several years;
• Implement data collection and outcome measurements to evaluate the state's LTC services.

Coalition Of Advocates For Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE)

Funding for home &c ommunity services
Georgia citizens have continued to advocate for expansion of programs and services to help frail older adults and people with disabilities to remain independent and in their own homes to the extent possible.

Supported Department Budget Requests for FY 2001:
• $4.19 million for CCSP as requested by the Department of Human Resources (DHR);
• $1.07 million for CCSP as requested by the Department of Community Health;
• $3.8 million for Non-Medicaid HCBS as requested by DHR.
Budgetary information provided by Georgia DHR and DMA.

Minimum Standards For Nursing Facility Staffing

What This Budget Item Would Do:
• Establish standards for nursing facilities regarding the minimum numbers of (1) direct care staff by shift; (2) licensed nurses providing direct care; and (3) direct care staff at meals;
• Increase the minimum number of direct nursing care hours for each resident daily;
• Implement a Joint House and Senate Study Committee on Long-Term Care Health Care Workers to examine the staffing crisis in the long-term care system as a whole and make recommendations on actions to improve staffing throughout the continuum of long-term care.

Funding For Long Term Care Ombudsman Program

What This Budget Item Would Do:
• Match funds to the rate of growth in the number of personal care homes in Georgia;
• Increase Ombudsmen staffing hours and provide sufficient travel funds;
• Enable community Long Term Care Ombudsman programs to make quarterly visits to personal care homes and provide residents more timely responses to complaints;
• Provide the community with information about long term care issues and increase education to long term care residents and staff regarding residents' rights.

Senior Week At The Capitol 2000
Tuesday, January 25, 2000
Wednesday, January 26, 2000
Thursday, January 27, 2000

State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia

- Demonstrate Seniors are active Georgia citizens
- Meet with your State Legislators
- Observe the General Assembly at work
- Show cooperation among a variety of groups
- Show our Governor, Lieutenant Governor & Legislators that we are interested in legislation

Amendments Sought To Decatur Charter

by Cris Lake

A city charter "should stand the test of time," according to Decatur City Manager Peggy Merriss. But the document that provides the foundation for Decatur city government is showing its age. Variously amended to keep in compliance with Georgia laws and the evolving nature of city operations, the Charter has become unwieldy and difficult to interpret. Later this month, Decatur City Commissioners will have the opportunity to approve a revised Charter to help guide the City in the new millennium.

Merriss emphasized that the Charter has been recodified, not rewritten. City officials sought better organization and coherency in the document and wanted to eliminate allusions to obsolete city functions, she said. For example, the current Charter, which was written before DeKalb County took over Decatur's water and animal licensing services, refers to a city water department and dog tax. "There's also a section that authorizes the mayor and city commissioners to regulate the installation of water closets," she said.

The process to update the Charter started two years ago when a committee of city and school officials began looking at sections dealing specifically with school issues. That committee recommended expanding the school board's power over school taxes and school property, significantly changing the structure of authority outlined in the existing Charter. Those changes were adopted as amendments last year.

Also in 1999, the City hired Municipal Code, a Florida firm specializing in improving the readability of government documents, to update other parts of the City Charter. Decatur used the firm's services before when it revised its ordinance code in 1995. The firm deleted 28 portions of the existing Charter and reorganized the rest, a job that took several months and cost the City about $5000.

At a public hearing held December 20, Decatur resident Paul Jones remarked on the new Charter's improved "clarity, consistency and continuity," but also pointed out instances of gender-dominant language, the omission of College Heights from the list of city schools, and disparities in the qualifications for city commissioners and school board candidates.

Tom Keating, who served on the Education Charter Review Committee, commended having the Charter cleared of its "underbrush," but spoke against some of the recent recommendations of his own committee. Last month, the committee proposed dropping a provision in the Charter that required the school system to prepare annual reports to the City. Most committee members felt that the requirement was redundant in view of yearly Department of Education audits that are available to the public.

Keating argued to keep the requirement in tact, however, as a demonstration of the school board's "openness" to the public. And he urged further discussion on board members' compensation and possible student representation, and for Charter provisions that promoted "inclusion, openness and willingness to debate."

An ideal document, said Keating, was not a "skeleton framework of guidelines," but one which "reflected citizens' choices in how the city should govern itself and provided vision for the future."

But Merriss said that city officials' intentions were different. "We were grateful for comments we received about the lack of gender-neutral language and technical omissions," she said. "Our goal was to make the Charter an operational and understandable document. Once it's approved, then we can look at policy issues."

If the historical pattern of Charter revisions since the 1920's is a reliable indicator, substantive changes may be deferred until the next generation. The Charter underwent major revisions in the 1950's and again in the 1970's. Merriss predicted that the latest version will be approved by City Commissioners and that its adoption would be the only item on the City's agenda for State legislators in the upcoming General Assembly.

The next work session for City Commissioners that includes the Charter as an item for discussion is scheduled on January 18 and is open to the public. Interested citizens may review or check out copies of the new Charter at City Hall.

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In Memorium

Mrs. Clara Carroll
December 26, 1999

Clara Carroll's death was as if one of the strongest branches of that special family tree suddenly snapped. But the birth of her granddaughter Clara, is a graft that will take, in time, and make the family tree grow even stronger, in her name.

Clara had a special light, an aura of grace, an enduring place in our hearts. May the family feel the love of our community.

Decatur's Future: Growth For The Common Good

I bought my home in Decatur three years ago because I liked the town's human diversity, the architecture of the older homes and the sense of community here. I considered moving to a number of metro Atlanta neighborhoods with attractive older homes, but I was drawn in particular to a unique "hometown" spirit that sets Decatur apart from other areas. I made a deliberate choice to settle here and get involved in Decatur's special community life.

And I do mean special. Visit any city event on the Square, and you will witness a diverse group of people enjoying one another's company. People not just of different races, but of different ages, incomes, sexual orientations, religions and political leanings come together in a true, vibrant community.

Part of that vibrancy is Decatur's dynamism in recent years. Our town is changing rapidly, as is all of metro Atlanta. People are buying up, developing and redeveloping intown property so fast that most urban planners and city officials are struggling to keep up. Population projections indicate that in just 25 years, Atlanta will be roughly equal to the New York City of today.

South Decatur offers a classic example of how redevelopment and gentrification are rapidly changing the look and flavor of our community. While some of this change is a natural by-product of people moving back into the city from the suburbs, driven to escape the misery of ever-longer commutes, many people are working hard to bring a more revitalized economy to the Oakhurst business district. The renewal of south Decatur is no longer questionable; it is a question of time.

Guest Editorial
by Robert Soens

Affordable Living For A Diverse Community

Decatur is changing, yes—but how do we ensure change for the common good, across the racial and economic spectrum? We have little time to contemplate what our city will be like in 25 years—or even five or ten. While we have so much to be thankful for, it is also a time to be thoughtful, lest we risk losing all that makes Decatur special. If we do not plan carefully, we will simply be swallowed up by the growth of Atlanta.

In the Decatur Roundtable discussions of 1998 and 1999, maintaining economic and racial diversity consistently emerged as a chief concern about our town's future.

Closely tied to that concern are the issues of affordable housing, transportation, and good planning. We must ensure that a diversity of people would not only want to live here, but can afford to live here. We should be working today to make sure we have housing affordable to people of various income levels and ages.

And in order for a variety of people to live here, they need affordable and safe means of transportation to and from work. Transportation issues will be determined on a regional basis, and Decatur must be open and willing to participate in the decision-making with a strong voice.

There is much talk about "smart growth" both in the metro area and state-wide, and the issues are numerous and complex. Georgia is lucky to have in Roy Barnes a governor who takes them seriously. We are also fortunate that Michael Dobbins, Atlanta's Commissioner of the Department of Planning, Development and Neighborhood Conservation, is committed to creating a city that will be healthy and diverse in the future.

Our Labors Of Love

Decatur's current prosperity is no accident. It is the result of years of a special labor of love, of many hard-working people too numerous to name individually here. Chances are you know some of them. They sit on the city commission; volunteer on various Decatur Business Association committees, organizing such events as the Decatur Beach Party and the Concerts on the Square; they organized the Decatur Roundtables; sit on various boards like the Downtown Development Authority; volunteer in their local church, school PTO or civic organizations like Rotary; or have risked their life savings to start one of the many small businesses that give us so much of our small-town feel. We can also be thankful for past and present members of the City staff for their wise decisions and hard work. Far too few of these people ever get recognized as Hometown Heroes.

Many of those same individuals were involved in Decatur's strategic planning initiative over a decade ago that cleared the way for the quality of life we now enjoy. A new planning endeavor is now beginning, and there are many ways everyone can be involved in maintaining and enriching the community we value. The Growth and Development Action Team and the Strategic Planning Action Team, both outgrowths of the Decatur Roundtable discussions, are seeking input from Decatur's citizenry, as will strategic planning focus groups.

Please consider getting involved (see below for contact information). We will need the continued dedication of many people to maintain our uniqueness. Just as the Decatur of today is no accident, we cannot allow the future to be one, either.

Get Involved

Contact Lyn Menne, Executive Director, Decatur Downtown Development Authority, at 404-371-8386 to join either the Growth and Development Action Team or the Strategic Planning Action Team, or to be a part of a focus group leading to a new strategic plan for Decatur.

Robert Soens is a member of the Growth and Development and Strategic Planning Action Teams, president of the Community Center of South Decatur and chairman of the Scottish Rite Hospital Development Team and a resident of Decatur.

Correction: In our Dec. 16 issue, Robert Soens was misquoted in the article South Decatur Keeps on Growing. The sentence read: "While all of these new ideas and plans are spurring renewed excitement about South Decatur, Soens remains cautiously optimistic about the future of the burgeoning little area." Soens reports that he is very optimistic about the growth of businesses in south Decatur. However, he does feel that the rapidly changing economic climate of the area lends itself to gentrification, something he feels should be approached with caution and care.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Vision And New Approach Needed For Managment Of Nuclear Energy

Glenn Carroll is right; Americans will make the ultimate decisions on use of nuclear technology (Letters, December 2). Well-informed Americans will make the best decisions. Nobel Laureate Glenn Seaborg understood the message of Albert Einstein, "To the village square we must carry the facts about atomic energy...."

When he was appointed Chairman of the US Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) by President John Kennedy in 1961, Dr. Seaborg began an important program to provide full and accurate information to Americans about nuclear technology. Information was provided about its benefits, its dangers and how they were safeguarded, releases of radioactivity to the environment, and any accidents. This program was continued by AEC Chairman James Schlesinger and strengthened by Chairman Dixy Lee Ray. If the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) had continued this program, Americans would know that:

Nuclear power plants do not release pollutants or greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. Therefore, increased use of nuclear power may be the best way to have a clean atmosphere and reduce levels of greenhouse gases to prevent catastrophic climatic changes.

Nuclear power plant operation and its associated fuel cycle provide the basis for international safeguards for nuclear materials. Therefore, well safeguarded nuclear power is not a proliferation threat, but the best solution to challenges of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Nuclear technology is essential for best medical diagnosis and treatment, exploration of deep space, many industrial applications that are important to the health and well being of humankind and other life forms, and research for a better future.

Unfortunately, the program for providing full and accurate information to Americans was canceled when AEC programs were transferred to the ERDA and later the DOE. As a consequence many Americans and their political leaders are misinformed about nuclear technology. Dr. Seaborg also understood that the greatest potential danger of nuclear technology was from weapons material in the wrong hands being used as a nuclear explosive. Accordingly, he ordered a cutback in production of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and plutonium for weapons programs, and disposal of excess materials by their destruction through beneficial use. HEU was converted to low enriched uranium and used as fuel in commercial nuclear power plants.

More than any person that I have known, Glenn Seaborg understood that nuclear dangers exist because nuclear materials and nuclear technology exist. Their use for the benefit of humankind, well managed and with best international safeguards, is the best and only assurance that they will not be used for catastrophic destruction. He had particular concern about the excess weapons plutonium in economically challenged Russia falling into the hands of terrorists and being used for catastrophic destruction, and understood the need for parity in the destruction of both US and Russian excess plutonium through its use as mixed oxide fuel in commercial nuclear power plants.

As a chemist, Dr. Seaborg knew that processes to plutonium would not provide meaningful protection against its misuse. He would also agree with Carroll that the US should focus on appropriate long-term solutions for disposition of nuclear waste and spent nuclear fuels.

Hopefully the US will soon adopt a new vision and a new approach for uses of nuclear technology that will include: quality management for all nuclear activities; full and accurate information to Americans about all aspects of nuclear technology ; cooperation among nations to ensure best safety and safeguards for nuclear materials and technology comparable to that for nuclear power plant operation by INPO and WANO; and resumption by the US of its appropriate role as a leader in the use and best safeguards for nuclear materials and technology.

Clinton Bastin

Exclusive Parties Shouldn't Be A Part of Public Space

I am surprised that the City of Decatur rented out the public Courthouse Square for private parties. I thought that the celebration of the New Year was to be a community event. I was shocked to witness such an exclusionary event in this city that has tried very hard to be an inclusive place to live. I saw a woman who has been a very civic minded citizen of this community since before 1940, told that "No, this tent is not the Great Lakes Neighborhood tent, you have to have paid $50 and have a button on to come in here." If you want to host a private party, do it at home, or rent a party room at the Decatur Holiday Inn, they need your support. In my opinion it was so un-Decatur.

Lea Estes Jordan

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Georgia Legislature

continued from FRONT PAGE

are now largely run by corporations, some owning thousands of homes around the country. Consumers — many of whom feel bereaved of their money as well as their loved one — complain that absentee corporate ownership makes it difficult to resolve discrepancies in services provided and charges.

Even more treacherous for consumers is "a la carte" billing for cemetery services, with separate charges for each detail, even placement of a grave marker. Under present law, terms such as "perpetual care" are poorly defined. "There's no plan for the State to set prices," said Chris Riggall, press officer for the Secretary of State, " but we need more disclosure." Riggall noted that some in the industry agree that changes are needed.

Grady Budget

For Georgia's needy, just staying alive became a greater challenge in 1999. The State House of Representatives will take up where it left off on HR 577 and HR 578, which urge Grady Hospital and the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority to continue programs for the needy, despite the deplorable state of Grady's budget. In anticipation of Grady's $26.4 million budget shortfall, the Hospital Authority voted to reduce services, cutting deeply into health-care access for thousands. Reduced payments to Morehouse and Emory Medical Schools threaten elimination of as many as 30 physicians from the hospital staff. HR 577 recommends that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners coordinate efforts with other governmental authorities to alleviate the problem.

Fingerprinting For Public Assistance

Georgians who protested that fingerprinting for drivers' licenses would be just the beginning of invasive identification methods will say "I told you so." Senate bill 212 would amend the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Act so that finger imaging (computerized fingerprinting) is required of applicants for assistance, to prevent double-dipping and reduce fraud.

The bill states that the fingerprint images "shall not be accessed by any other agency or used for any other purpose;" however, subsequent language opens the door to "compacts or reciprocal agreements with the federal government or any state, or any department or agency of either the federal government or any state, for the purpose of implementing and carrying out the provisions" relevant to identification and fraud reduction. If the system is implemented, refusal or failure to comply will result in ineligibility for assistance.

Restrictions On "Morning After" Pill

Still in the Georgia House of Representatives is HB 428, which would amend the Family Planning Services Act to prohibit certain state and local agencies from providing "contraceptives which have as a primary medically recognized usage the inducing of spontaneous abortion." Although the bill doesn't specify RU-486, the "morning after" pill is clearly the target. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to approve the drug for use in the U.S. by the end of 1999.

Go Ahead, Take Your Vitamins

HB 749, the Complementary and Alternative Health Care Freedom of Access Act, speaks volumes for growing consumer interest in naturalists, nutritionists, herbalists, acupuncture, traditional Chinese medicine, and other forms of alternative health care. The bill establishes the right of patients to choose, but requires written, informed consent that specifies the alternative practitioner's philosophy, services, credentials and experience, and risks and benefits of procedures, methods, and prescribed substances. The Act also outlines the rights of patients to sue for harm caused by such methods.

Consumer-Centered System For Long-Term Care

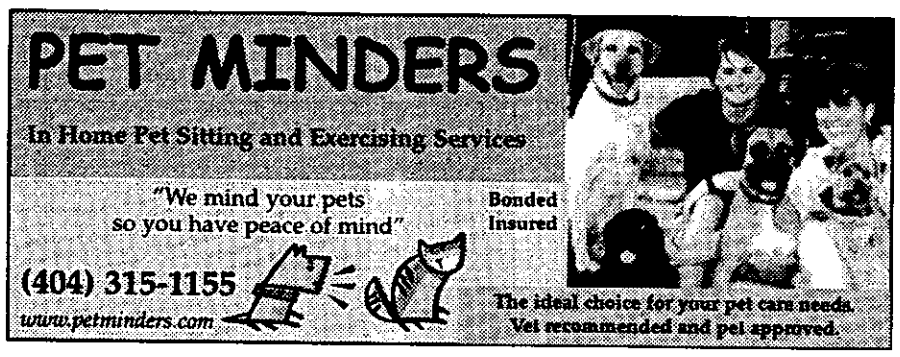
Looking for long-term care in Georgia is like looking for a needle in a haystack. **SB 144** would update existing laws to create a consumer-centered and single-point-of-entry system to long-term care for the aged, disabled persons, and people with mental health, mental retardation, or substance abuse problems. While the bill supports family decisions regarding nursing home or other placements, its focus is facilitating care in the community.

Drug Shipping & Prescribing

SB 239 would amend the Georgia Pharmacy Act to set protocols for prescriptions shipped to Georgia residents by mail from out-of-state pharmacies; a practice that is increasing as consumers seek lower drug prices through health services and the Internet. The bill would affect many senior citizens, who are the heaviest users of computers and the Internet.

HR 328 would require departments of health and county boards of health to obtain a medical history before providing or administering controlled substances (i.e., potentially addictive drugs) or dangerous drugs to unmarried minors. This common-sense procedure could be a hornets' nest for certain routine public health services, depending on how the term "dangerous" is interpreted and applied.

For example, some consumer groups believe vaccines are "dangerous" and are working to rescind mandated school-entry vaccines. Forcing the Dept. of Health to take a history each time a vaccine is given would be a huge burden.



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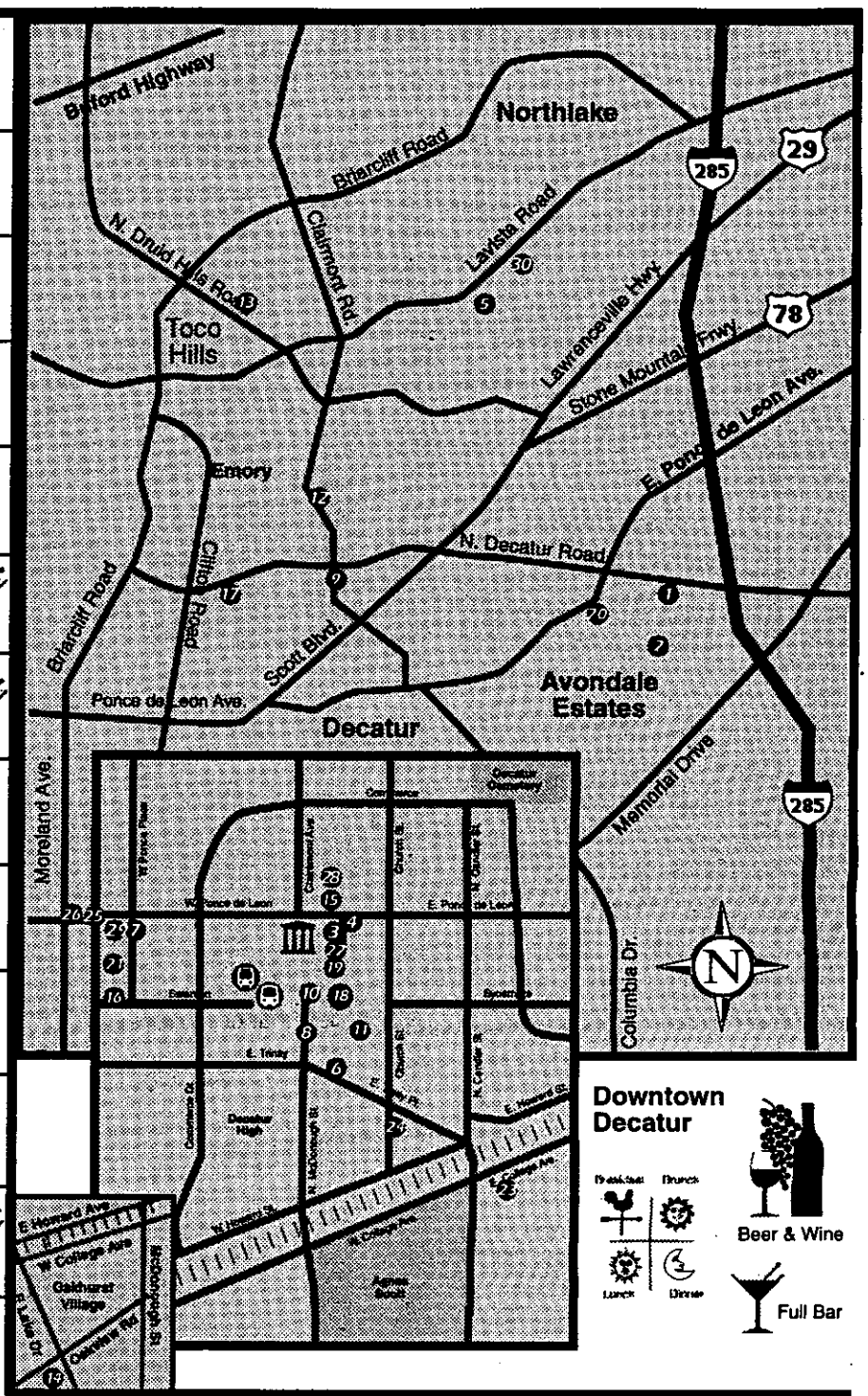
Central DeKalb Restaurant Guide

Ackee Pot ❶ 3033 N. Decatur Rd. Decatur • 404/299-7833	Mon - Fri 11 am - 10 pm Sat - Sun 11 am - 12 pm		Authentic Jamaican Cuisine! Specializing in seafood & chicken dishes & stirfry veggies. Please come in & dine with us.
Avondale Pizza Cafe ❷ 70 North Avondale Rd. Avondale Estates • 404/299-6922	Mon - Thurs 11 am - 11 pm Fri 11 am - midnight Sat 11am-11pm Sun 4 pm - 10 pm		Enjoy naturally healthy pizza, pasta and more in the cafe that has been the "jewel" of Avondale for over 10 years.
Brick Store Pub ❸ 125 East Court Square City of Decatur • 404/687-0990	Mon 11 am - 1 am Tue - Sat 11 am - 2 am Sun noon - Midnight		Traditional neighborhood Pub featuring a world class selection of beers, wines & spirits on Historic Decatur Square.
Cafe Alsace ❹ 121 East Ponce de Leon Ave. City of Decatur • 404/373-5622	Tue - Fri 11:30 am - 2:30 pm Tue - Sat 6 - 10 pm Sun 10 am - 2 pm		French Alsatian cuisine in a romantic and cozy neighborhood restaurant. Delicious Sunday brunch.
Cafe Lily ㉔ 308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. City of Decatur • 404/371-9119	Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10:30pm Fri.-Sat. 11am-12:30pm Sat.-Sun. Brunch 10 am-3pm		An exciting, new upscale, yet casual restaurant & bar in Decatur. Featuring original & classic mediterranean recipes.
Catalina's Italian Restaurant 2751 LaVista Rd. Decatur • 404/636-7765 ❺	Mon - Sat 5:30 pm - Closing		Cozy, friendly and delicious made-to-order menu. Freshest ingredients. Family-owned and operated.
Coyote's Mexican Grill 114 East Trinity Place City of Decatur • 404/687-3311 ❻	Mon - Thurs 11 am - 10 pm Fri & Sat 11 - 11 pm Sun Closed		New in Decatur! Casual Mexican fare. Patio dining. The new restaurant everyone's talking about. Come see for yourself.
Crescent Moon 254 W. Ponce de Leon Ave. City of Decatur • 404/377-5623 ❼	Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 3 pm Sat & Sun 8 am - 2:30 pm		Scrumptious, inventive breakfast & lunch menu makes Crescent Moon a local favorite.
Eddie's Attic ❽ 515 North McDonough Street City of Decatur • 404/377-4976	Mon - Sun 4 pm - late night		Enjoy great soups, salads, sandwiches & entrees at the "tub of Atlanta's singer/songwriter scene.
Evan's Fine Foods ❾ 2125 North Decatur Road Decatur • 404/634-6294	Mon - Sat 5:30 am - 9 pm Closed Sunday		Enjoy friendly service & a delicious home-cooked breakfast, lunch or dinner at one of Decatur's landmarks.
Five Sisters Cafe ㉚ 2743-A Lavista Rd. Decatur • 404/636-6060	Tues - Sat 11 am - 9 pm Closed Sun/Mon		Come in for a tasty sandwich or salad, weekly dinner specials, and delicious desserts in an eclectic atmosphere!
Food Business 115 Sycamore Street Decatur Square • 404/371-9121 ❿	Mon - Fri 11 am - 3 pm (lunch) 6 pm - 10 pm (dinner) Sat 6 - 10 pm (dinner)		American regional cuisine for Decatur's discriminating neighborhoods.
Johnny's New York Style Pizza 340-B Church Street Decatur • 404/373-8511 ⓫	Mon - Sat 11am - 10pm Sun 4 pm - 10 pm		Fast friendly affordable gourmet pizza, salads, subs, slices and pasta. Seating for 75. Free delivery after 5 pm.
Le Giverny 1355 Clairmont Road Decatur • 404/325-7252 ⓬	Mon - Fri 11am - 2 pm (lunch) Mon - Sat 6 am - 10pm (dinner)		This inviting French bistro features expertly prepared cuisine with generous portions. Enjoy our new patio & full bar offerings.
Longhorn Steak House **At Toco Hill** 2892 North Druid Hills Rd Atlanta • 404/636-3817 ⓭	Mon - Thurs; Sun 11:15 am - 10:30 pm Fri - Sat 11:15 am - 11:30 pm		Deliciously tempting steaks, ribs, seafood, entrees & fresh salads, make this a great choice for the whole family.
Margie's Pantry 653 E. Lake Dr. • Historic Oakhurst Decatur • 404/377-3818 ⓮	New Hours & Menu Tues - Fri 7:30 am - 5:30 pm Sat & Sun 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. www.margiespantry.com		A "Sinfilled Pantry" with a "Magical Menu" that's tasty for Lunch, Weekend Brunch, Pastries, Catering & Imaginative Weekday Breakfast Sandwiches.
Mick's 116 E. Ponce de Leon Ave. City of Decatur • 404/373-7797 ⓯	Mon - Thurs 11 am - 10 pm Fri & Sat 11 am - midnight Sun 10 am - 10 pm		Made-from-scratch menu featuring the freshest of ingredients, crisp vegetables & daily baked bread. Limited delivery available.
Mosaic 308 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue City of Decatur • 404/373-9468 ⓰	Tues-Fri 11 :30 - 2:30 (lunch) Tues - Sat 5:30 - 10 pm (dinner) Sat & Sun 9 am - 2 pm (brunch)		AN ADVENTURE IN EATING! French, Spanish, Italian and Chilean Specialties served in a colorful and creative way. Superb seafood and great wines!
Park Bench at Emory ⓱ 1577 North Decatur Rd • Emory Village Atlanta • 404/377-8888	Mon - Thurs 11:30 am - 1 am Fri 11:30 am - 2 am Sat & Sun 11:30 am - 2 am		Known for it's prizewinnig pizza, Jagger's also features many delicious entrees and a late night menu.
P – Town ㉘ 105 Clairemont Avenue Decatur • 404/377/7772	Tues - Sat 11:00 am - 5 pm		French fries, homemade icecream, shakes & sundaes. We proudly serve Hillshire Farm brand footlong hot dogs.
Raging Burrito ⓲ 141 Sycamore Street Square In Decatur • 404/377-3311	Open 7 days a week Sun -Thurs 11 am - 11 pm Fri & Sat 11 am - 1 am Sunday Brunch 10:30 am - 3 pm		Come check out our incredible burritos, quesadillas, nachos & vegetarian chili. Serving 12 tap beers & great margaritas. And, Great Sunday Brunch!



Santa Fe Cafe ⓳ 123 East Court Square City of Decatur • 404/377-1399	Mon - Thurs 11 am - 10 pm Fri & Sat 11:30 am - 11 pm Sunday noon- 10 pm		Freshly prepared, captivating Southwestern cuisine. Extensive margarita bar.
Skips Hot Dogs ⓴ 48 North Avondale Road Avondale Estates • 404/292-6703	Mon - Sat 10 am - 9 pm Closed Sunday		An Atlanta favorite since 1979. We'll cater any event. Pure beef hot dogs, Italian sandwiches, burgers, chicken.
Sushi Avenue 308 West Ponce de Leon Avenue City of Decatur • 404/378-8448 ㉑	Mon - Sat 11 am - 2 pm Mon - Thurs 5:30 pm - 10 pm Weekends 5:30 pm - 10:30 pm		Daily Sushi specials, reasonably priced menu & friendly atmosphere. The only Real Sushi bar in town.
Sweet Melissa's ㉒ 127 East Court Square City of Decatur • 404/370-1111	Mon - Fri 11 am - 3 pm Fri & Sat 8 pm - 1 am - Jazz Sat & Sun Brunch		Serving great Deli-style fare for 10 years. Live Jazz during Sunday Brunch. Live Music on Fri. & Sat. evenings. Beer
Trackside Tavern ㉓ 313 East College Avenue • Decatur Corner of Agnes Scott • 404/378-0504	Mon - Fri 3 pm - 3 am Sat & Sun 1 pm - 3 pm		Decatur's original neighborhood bar. The meeting place for Decatur's best & not so best. Come see for yourself.
Twain's Billards & Tap Corner of Church St. & East Trinity City of Decatur • 404/373-0063 ㉔	Mon 5 pm - 1 am Tue - Thurs 11:30 am - 1 am Fri 11:30 am -2 am Sat 12:30 pm -2 am Sun 12:30 - Midnight	indi-	Great sandwiches, salads, vegetarian chili, quesadillas & wide selection of micro beers.
Watershed 406 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue City of Decatur • 404/378-4900 ㉕	Mon - Sat 11 am - 10 pm		Innovative, freshly-made gourmet soups, sandwiches, salads, pastas & unforgettable desserts. Signature dishes by renowned chef Scott Peacock.
Ya-Ya's Cajun Cuisine 426 W. Ponce de Leon Avenue City of Decatur • 404/373-9292 ㉖	Tues - Thurs 11 am - 10 pm Fri 11 am - 11 pm Sat 12 pm - 11 pm Sun 6 pm - 10 pm		Thank You Decatur!!! David & Leslie

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DeKalb Board Of Education Urges Legislators To Strengthen Funding Foundation

The DeKalb County Board of Education recommends one priority with two subsections to the DeKalb Legislative Delegation. Revenue restructuring is a critical issue which has implications for the financial solvency of all school systems in Georgia. The Board's Priority One follows:

Governor's Education Study Commission

The Governor and the General Assembly are urged to strengthen the QBE funding foundation to ensure that further shifting of funds from the state to the local tax base is not continued. This can be accomplished by mandating the local tax digest be approved at the 40% of fair market value only. The Local Fair Share (LFS) amount which is increased over the previous year should be applied to the QBE funding formula or other funding needs (maintenance and operation, training and experience, clerical, custodian and maintenance salary increases). This action is necessary in order that LFS amounts increased due to a 40% digest does not reduce state funding. An inflation factor should be applied to the base cost to prevent further stress on the local tax digest.

State Increase in LFS: $62,692,497
DeKalb Increase In LFS: $4,483,860
City of Decatur Increase: $196,016

Note: The local tax digest approved at approximately 36% of fair market value reduces revenue earned at 40% value by one mill ($11,829,869).

Subsection A: Salaries And Benefits

The General Assembly is urged to support an increase in Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and state funding of Social Security (or alternative benefits programs) to compensate local costs associated with a salary increase to the state minimum salary schedule. Currently, the FY2000 costs to the DeKalb local tax base for each 1% increase in salary approximates $4.2 million. An increase of 4.75% on the DeKalb salary schedule equates to 6% on the state minimum salary schedule.

State: over $192,000,000
Annualization: over $44,160,000
DeKalb: $19,950,000

Subsection B: Capital Outlay

The General Assembly is urged to support the earning of the capital outlay entitlements for regular and exceptional growth at the $100 million level each. If the regular and growth entitlements are combined, then increase entitlement level to $250 million. Georgia's student population is increasing by over 25,000 annually, and DeKalb County projects a growth of over 1,500 students annually over the next five years. This growth requires significant funding for construction projects to provide classrooms to house growth and for projects to provide safe and quality learning environments through renovation and retrofitting. Whereas the projected proceeds from the 1% local option sales tax may partially address existing construction needs, the entitlement level for regular capital outlay needs to be significantly increased. Each project completed under the 1% local option sales tax reduces a system's need and thus its entitlement earnings. It is recommended that the 1% local option sales tax not be factored into entitlement earnings other than reducing completed projects when recalculating entitlement earnings.

STATE:
Regular $39,963,433
Growth $73,865,604
Regular Advance $24,626,625
Low Wealth Funding $13,749,797

Note: Constitutional Amendment 2, which passed on the Nov. 3, 1998 ballot, will relegate capital outlay for growth to the last of five priorities. This program may be funded only if the top three priorities are fully funded. Assuming increased costs for Pre-Kindergarten and HOPE scholarship, the probability of technology and growth funding may be in jeopardy. Transferring growth to the regular entitlement program and increasing the level of entitlement to $250 million will better serve facility needs in Georgia.

PAGE 2000 Legislative Priorities

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) is a nonunion, professional association with more than 48,000 members in every school system in Georgia. PAGE foundation sponsors programs of academic competition and promotes careers in education through student organizations and scholarships. Below are PAGE's legislative priorities for the year 2000.

School Climate

Require school districts to include in discipline policies/codes of student conduct the provision that anyone making threats of violence against students or school personnel is guilty of a reportable offense which will result in suspension, counseling, and appropriate intervention.
Increase funding to expand the alternative school program;
Fund school counselors at a ratio of 1:400 (K-12).

Instruction

Provide funding to lower the pupil-teacher ratio in kindergarten to 14:1, in grades 1-3 to 15:1, grades 4-5 to 20:1, grades 6-8 to 22:1, and grades 9-12 to 22:1, and fund facilities to accommodate the additional teachers (phase in over a five-year period);
Provide funding for art, music and physical education teachers (K-8) at the rate of one of each per 345 students (phase in over a five-year period).

Personnel

Provide for optional retirement with full benefits after completing 25 years of creditable service in the Georgia Teachers Retirement System;
Increase the state base salary scale to ensure that Georgia teacher salaries reach and remain above the national average and lead the Southeast; add a step to the state teacher salary scale to extend salary steps through 30 years;
Fund improved salaries and retirement benefits of educational support personnel in the Public School Employees Retirement System;
Fund nurse in every school.

Accountability

Support development of a statewide student information system including funding for a data entry personnel;
Support increased funding for the Pay for Performance Program;
Support the Fair Dismissal Act;
Oppose diverting public tax dollars to private schools for K-12 education.

PAGE Positions

SUPPORT...
- transfer of full experience from one school system to another for all personnel;
- funding to cover the cost of personnel benefits due to the state salary increase;
- alternative means for funding public education.
- full funding to provide duty-free lunch for elementary teachers;
- the continuation of a funding incentive for the implementation of the Middle School Concept.

OPPOSE...
- using Georgia lottery proceeds to supplant existing resources for educational purposes and programs;
- collective bargaining, legalized meet and confer, legalized permissive professional negotiations, binding arbitration, strikes, sick-outs, school closings and other militant tactics.

PAGE Programs

The PAGE Foundation sponsors programs of academic competition and promotes careers in education through student organizations and scholarships:
- STAR Program
- Academic Bowl for Middle Grades
- Georgia Academic Decathlon
- Future Georgia Educators (FGE)
- Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE)

Mrs. Jan Goodloe, a City Schools of Decatur educator, is the 1999-2000 PAGE president.

Decatur First United Methodist Church
Thomas A. Green, Sr. Minister
Sunday Services
8:45 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School
For all ages at 9:45 a.m.
Youth Activities
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
300 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue
Downtown Decatur • 404-378-4541

Decatur Presbyterian Church
Come Worship With Us
205 Sycamore Street
Downtown Decatur
(Corner of Sycamore & Church Street)
404/378-1777
Sunday School ~ 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship ~ 10:15 a.m.
Sunday Chapel Service ~ 6:30 p.m.
Sunday Youth Meeting ~ 6:00 p.m.
Dr. Jasper N. Keith, Pastor
Rev. Beverly Brigman, Associate Pastor

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Community Calendar

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SPECIAL EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 6, 2000
Decatur High School will inaugurate its **Parent, Teacher, Student Association**. All parents and guardians are invited to become Charter Members and participate in the educational future at Decatur High School. Membership dues will be $5. 7 p.m. For further details, call the main office at 404/370-4420.

JANUARY 10
Workshop for Children: Noguchi "Playscapes" in Piedmont Park. Children will visit "Playscapes" and return to the Michael C. Carlos Museum to design and construct models of their own playscapes. 1:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. Tate Room, Carlos Museum on the Emory Campus, 571 South Kilgo Street. $10 Museum members, Emory faculty and staff, $12 non-members. 404/727-4282.

JANUARY 13
Inauguration of Dr. Larry D. Large, 15th President of Oglethorpe University. Installation ceremony begins at 2;15 p.m. at Dorough Fieldhouse. 404/364-8461.CHILDREN

JANUARY 16
Workshop for children ages 8 to 12: "Transformations" and Ancient American Art. Ancient American societies shared a close relationship with the natural world and reverence for the environment. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tate Room of the Carlos Museum on the Emory Campus, 571 South Kilgo Street. $8 Museum members, Emory faculty and staff, $10 non-members. Pre-register with a credit card by calling 404/727-0519. Information, 404/727-4282.

DeKalb Symphony Children's Concert under the direction of Thomas Anderson. Monica Kaufman will host and narrate this one-hour concert featuring the orchestra, Atlanta dance-works, Magician Paul Sponaugle and Juggle Carrie McQueen. 3 p.m. Georgia Perimeter College Clarkston Campus Gymnasium. $5 at the door, $4 in advance. 404/299-4341.

JANUARY 25 & 26
Nikki Giovanni Poetry Reading. This outspoken African American author, poet and activist has received honorary doctorate degrees from numerous universities such as Smith College and University of Maryland. Tuesday at 8 p.m. Presser Hall of Agnes Scott College. Admission is free but a ticket is required. 404/471-6870.

JANUARY 27 THROUGH 30
Tina Turner will headline and the Smothers Brothers will host Super Bowl 34 in the Georgia Dome on Sunday, Jan. 30. Performers include, Travis Tritt, the 125 member Georgia Mass Choir and the Georgia Tech Marching Yellow Jacket Band. Faith Hill will sing while Briarlake Elementary School Signing Choir, a group of 12 people ranging in age from nine to 12 years sign the National Anthem. A portion of the show will be televised live on ABC. Theme Park tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for children 12 and under. and permit entry for a particular day and time. Tickets are available at the gate beginning 1/27 or through Ticketmaster at 404/249-6400.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 13
Speak Up For A Child. DeKalb County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Winter Training Informational. If you are at least 21 years of age, care about children who suffer from abuse and neglect, and willing to devote 32 hours to being trained, contact Angela Hill, Training Coordinator 404/292-5800. 7 p.m. DeKalb Juvenile Court, 3631 Camp Circle, Decatur.

JANUARY 18, 2000 DEADLINE
FY2001 Program Guidelines from the Georgia Council for the Arts are now available. Contact Georgia Council for the Arts, 260 14th Street NW, Suite 401, Atlanta, GA 30318. Phone 404/685-2787.

JANUARY 21 THROUGH 30
2000 Girl Scout Cookie Sale. Customers will have a chance to choose from eight Girl Scout favorites. All proceeds fund troop and council-wide activities.

FEBRUARY 5
The Community Center of South Decatur will be having a breakfast meeting to introduce new upcoming community programs (tutoring, neighbor helping neighbor, etc. and an update on the re-development of the old Scottish Rites Hospital. Everyone is invited. 10 a.m. serving coffee and donuts. Community Center of South Decatur, 317 Hill Street in the Oakhurst Community. For additional information, call 404/378-6346.

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 7
DeKalb County Board of Registrations and Elections applications are now being taken for a two-year member-at-large position to be appointed by the other four members of the board. Applicant must be a registered voter in DeKalb County. The Board is responsible for the conduct and certification of all elections and all voter registration in the county. Board meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, during election time, and on other occasions as needed. Submit a resume with a letter of application to: Board of Registrations and Elections, 4380 Memorial Drive, Decatur, GA 30032 or by fax to 404/298-4038. The deadline is Monday, February 7 at 4:30 p.m.

JANUARY 29
Open House at Decatur Montessori School. All are welcomed to tour the school, whose system was names after the first female physician in Italy, Dr. Maria Montessori. Programs are for children from six weeks of age and is an All-Day, year-round school. Tour hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Decatur Montessori School, 1429 Church Street. 404/370-0620.

CLASSES, CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

JANUARY 10
Book discussion: "A Reporter's Life" by Walter Cronkite will be the topic. 7:30 p.m. The Original DeKalb Great Books Discussion Group, Toco Hill-Avis G. Williams Library, 1282 McConnell Drive. 404/679-4404.

mind body spirit

To find out how traditional medicine can combine with alternative medicine for a healthier you, attend The Wellness Center open house. The Wellness Center will introduce its new and expanded line of comprehensive services.

Demonstrations and mini-lectures will teach you how focusing on all aspects of your health — mind, body and spirit — can enhance your daily life. Meet the practitioners and experience these services firsthand.

OPEN HOUSE
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday, February 5
DeKalb Medical Center
Professional Building
2665 N. Decatur Road
Decatur
Refreshments & Tours

DEMONSTRATIONS/EXHIBITS		LECTURES
Nutrition	Yoga	Exploring Soy
Herbal Medicine	Healing Touch	Mind/Body
Feng Shui	Arthritis Care	Feng Shui
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For more information, call 404-501-WELL(9355).

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DeKalb Medical Center
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WEEK OF JANUARY 10
Senior Leisure Express Classes begin at the Mason Mill Center for Special Populations. Call about class availability 404/679-5917.

JANUARY 12
"The 'Phoney' War: Rote Learning vs. Critical Thinking" by Roger Shattuck will open the inaugural symposium: "Celebrating the Liberal Arts: Making a Life and Making a Living." 12:30 p.m. Conant Performing Arts Center. Free. 404/364-8461.

JANUARY 17 THROUGH MARCH 13
Life Enrichment Services invites adults age 50 and over to attend their winter classes. All classes are held at either Oak Grove United Methodist Church , 1722 Oak Grove Road or the Mack Love Center. Complete information on courses is available at the Mack Love Center, 1340 McConnell Drive, Decatur. Call the Center for more information 404/321-6960.

MEETINGS

Kiwanis Club meets every Monday for lunch with a speaker at Petit Auberge noon to 1:15 p.m. Kiwanis is an International Civic Organization dedicated to the local community. Activities include developing future community leaders by sponsoring Key Club of Decatur and Lakeside High School; Builders Club Renfroe; Circle K Agnes Scott College. Call Pam Hughes for more information 404/378-0222.

The AARP Decaturite Chapter 3122 meets the third Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Decatur, 300 East Ponce de Leon Avenue. Lunch is $4.50 and all eligible seniors are cordially invited to come and join the fun and fellowship. For further details, call 404/373-1771.

Saturdays
DeKalb Republican Breakfast Forum. Hosted by Senator Jim Tysinger. 8 a.m. DeKalb Republican Headquarters, Embry Hills Shopping Center, 3583 "G" Chamblee-Tucker Road. 770/451-4174.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

JANUARY 6
City of Decatur Planning Commission. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St. 404/371-4102.

JANUARY 6, 11, 13, 18, 20
The Budget Review Committee of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners will begin reviewing the proposed 2000 budget. Meetings will be held in the Finance Department conference room on the sixth floor of the Maloof Center located at 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur. Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m.

JANUARY 11
Decatur Board of Education. 7:30 p.m. Media Center, Decatur High School, 310 N. McDonough St. 404/370-4420.

JANUARY 12
DeKalb Democrat Breakfast Club. For details contact Party Chair, Jerry Hegstrom c/o DeKalb County Democratic Party, P.O. Box 837, Decatur, GA 30031.

JANUARY 17
City of Decatur Commission Meeting. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, 509 N. McDonough St. 404/371-4102.

JANUARY 31
Avondale Estates City Commission. 7:30 p.m. City Hall, 21 N. Avondale Plaza. 404/294-5400.

VOLUNTEERS
The DeKalb Rape Crisis Center (DRCC) needs volunteers. A twenty-five hour training class is provided which begins January 22. For more information, call 404/377-1429. Leave your name, address and telephone number.

Decatur Cooperative Ministry is seeking interested volunteers to help in a number of areas: teaching financial management classes to our clients (training provided for this); helping to establish a speaker's bureau; to answer phones at our main office or at our South DeKalb office; to provide meals or childcare for our Family House support group meetings; to help transitional housing clients make the move to permanent housing; and to assist with fundraising events, including the Garden of Eatin', the major fundraiser usually held in September. For further information, call Rosemary Queen at 770/381-7254 or 404/377-5365.

The American Red Cross, Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter has many volunteer opportunities available including: working on Blood Drives, Caseworkers to Disaster victims and emergency communications to U.S. military and their families, Disaster Action Team - first on-the-scene contact with disaster situations, Health and Safety Instructors, Office Volunteers with a variety of skills, and Youth Services Instructors. These and many more opening all available to all interested people. For more details, contact Jeannette David at 404/296-0505.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

www.universaladvertising.com or call 404/371-8878

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST needed at law offices at 119 East Maple Street in downtown Decatur. Call Susan Ellis at 404/377-5531 for details.

AUTO
Learn How to Negotiate Your Own Car Deal & SAVE $1000s, Guaranteed Results. CALL 770-942-INFO

FOR RENT
OFFICE space for lease near DeKalb Farmer's Market. 2 large, bright rooms. Bathroom & Storage. Very nice; MUST SEE. $4850/mo. including utilities.. 404/373-7094.

FOR SALE
Historic Avondale brick home, 3 BR, 2 BA, Living Room/Dining Room combo, Den, large Kitchen with breakfast area, hardwood floors throughout. Detached two-car garage, unfinished basement. 16 Berkeley Road, near Lake. $249,900. Call Ann at Nationwide Real Estate Group, 404/294-8214. Open Houses on 1/9 and 1/16 between 1 - 3 p.m.

HELP WANTED
Atlanta Habitat for Humanity seeks candidates for Development/Fundraising Administrative Support Position. Candidates must have exceptional written and oral communication skills and at least one year of experience in donor database management. Other computer skills a plus. Public relations and special events support experience also a plus. Send resume and three references and two writing samples to: Administrative Support Position, Atlanta Habitat for Humanity, 519 Memorial Drive, SE., Atlanta, GA 30312 or fax to: 404/223-5103.

PART-TIME RECEPTIONIST needed at law offices at 119 East Maple Street in downtown Decatur. Call Susan Ellis at 404/377-5531 for details.

PET MINDERS is hiring part-time PET SITTERS/DOG WALKERS. Animal lovers who are responsible, reliable and conscientious are needed. Some weekend work required. Call 404.315.1155.

GEMINI COUNTERTOPS need people who take pride in their work to fabricate and install countertops. 404/237-1553.

Part Time **SPERM DONORS NEEDED!** If you are an educated, healthy male who would like to make extra money while helping others, call Xytex today at 404-881-0426.

MUSIC
Fred Brown Piano Service. Tuning, Regulation, Repair. PTG Associate Member. Email: fbrown3@mindspring.com or 404/373-2784.

Piano tuning, repairs, rebuilding. Piano for sale/rent. Lessons by a patient caring teacher. 404/378-8310.

POOL MANAGER
Venetian Pools, a community swim club serving Atlanta's Emory-Decatur area, seeks a General Manager for its year 2000 season. Our 500-member club has a championship youth swimming team, summer day camp for children and other activities of a family-oriented community group. Responsibilities include hiring and supervision of lifeguards; pool maintenance; and health/safety regulations. **Send resume before 1/20/2000 to Henry Blumberg, C/O Venetian Pools, P.O. Box 3151, Decatur, GA 30031-3151** or email to: **hblumbe@emory.edu.** For more information call **404-616-6145.**

Celestial Interpretations

Cathy Burroughs

Capricorn (12/21 - 1/20): Happy Birthday, darling Capricorn. As the Father Christmas of the Zodiac as well as Father Time, the first day of the Year 2000 is devoted to you, the time-honored realist. The goddesses of love and imagination Venus and Neptune smile down to remind you to dream, imagine and love. These will be the keystones for you in the Year 2000. Reality and possibility make beautiful music together! The New Moon in your sign on the 6th says 'Ready, Steady, Go!' And hang on to your hat for the Lunar Eclipse of the 20-21st when finances will rock.

Aquarius (1/21-2/18): The future is here and it is yours. You herald in the age when humanity begins to live up to its optimal potential with you at the forefront, showing the rest of us how it's done. Fateful partnerships are now fusing your lesson of detachment and freedom with your polar opposite Leo's lesson in passion and self-expression. On the new moon of the 6th, you'll dream about it. On the Lunar eclipse of the 20th, it will become a manifest reality, changing you irreparably! So get used to the "We" word.

Pisces (2/19 - 3/20): "And the meek shall inherit the earth." Your vision for the future and for your path is so powerful, helping to reshape the society's vision of meaningful work. Global in consciousness, international in scope, you are carving out a wonderful model for a world where people can fulfill their dreams and be prosperous and happy too. On the new moon of the 6th, your authority is acknowledged. By the intense lunar eclipse of the 20th, your contribution to the changing values regarding personal fulfillment in daily life and work will be palpably felt.

Aries (3/21 - 4/20): As the pioneer of the Zodiac, you break new ground in the area of group consciousness and the freedom of people to actively pursue their new futuristic aspirations. As the pathfinder of the new era, you are perceived with new authority professionally, particularly on the new moon of the 6th. Courageous and passionate Ram, make way for love, friendship and wondrous creativity on the lunar eclipse of the 20th.

Taurus (4/21 - 5/20): Lovely sensuous one, you reformat the culture's relationship to materialism in the coming era. You support those that may be afraid and open the portals to a new approach to love and travel, both globally and intimately. Extraordinary and unexpected careers unfold with every element you'd ever wanted, but been afraid to ask for. Who thought you would end up being such a revolutionary! And still so loved, especially around the lunar eclipse of the 20th.

Gemini (5/21 - 6/20): New horizons in education and travel mark the spirit of your entry into the Millennium. The new moon of the 6th brings new seriousness to the realm of commitment and commerce as you may be imbued with the authority to handle others monetary interests in the coming year. By the 20th, you will shine in the spotlight as a keynote speaker in the think tank, reframing how we learn for the coming epoch.

Cancer (6/21 - 7/21): You breathe fresh air into the traditional approach to family and closeness in the coming era. The Crab reformats traditions in closeness where new individuality is embraced and honored in partnerships. The new moon of the 6th marks the ceremonial expression of this new trend. The lunar eclipse of the 20th signals a creative response to finances to back up this kinship paradigm you are shaping.

Leo (7/22 - 8/22): You are the transformer of the "I" and "Thou" paradigm for the new era and you handle this new assignment with passion, finesse and flair. You are rewarded on the new moon of the 6th for your new found wisdom in the arena of others points of view with new authority. On the lunar eclipse of the 20th, any old ego habits will be released into a higher vibrational frequency that will serve us all well into the new fabric of our society through your example.

Virgo (8/23 -9/23): You are the groundbreaking creator of the new approach to daily work and health that will be the emblem of the epoch, Virgo. New creative authority is yours for the year 2000 as you come into your executive mantle on the new moon of the 6th. Self-love is no longer a stranger as manifested on the lunar eclipse of the 20th and that will make all the difference.

Libra (9/23 - 10/22): You shape the model for the new marriage of the coming era, where both parties get to fulfill their respective dreams and maintain their own individuality in the loving security of their shared commitment. The dialog begins on the new moon of the 6th, shaping the plan for more fluid gender and parental roles. The eclipse of the 20th marks you as the spokesperson for the new friendship/romance model of the future.

Scorpio (10/23 - 11/21): You are forging a new relationship to power that is not based on power struggles. With your new wisdom, the new moon of the 6th will initiate your reign as the fair-minded arbiter of the higher vibrational transformational dynamics of open dialog. From now on, the home will be a place where individuality is nourished and you will be the inspired leader of the land where this is possible. The eclipse of the 20th will mark this new era.

Sagittarius (11/22 - 12/20): As the visionary of this new chapter, the powerful healing and awakening you experience now will prepare you for your journey into this century. You are opening to the power of the individual to heal, to open spiritually, to experience adventures, to manifest dreams and to create a global community among many different nations. Your destiny as a spiritual leader for these times will first be tested on the new moon of the 6th in the arena of earthly matters, as you become the captain of material resources. By the total eclipse of the moon on the 20th, it will become clear that you have access to the information required to help facilitate the continuing transition.

Cathy is a professional astrologer, tarot reader and psychic with an international clientele who lives in Decatur. She can be reached at (404) 370-1118.

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Students Discover A World of Differences About Beauty

Our Bodies For Ourselves: A Health Seminar By And For Women

by Jacqueline Pardue

Do you dye your hair? Have breast implants? Wear short skirts or spiked heels? Dress your daughter in pink and son in blue? Would you break all of your children's toes except the largest? Put a 2.2 pound brass collar on your five-year-old's neck? Recently, Agnes Scott students taking a course on Women, Health, and Society found the answer to these questions was — yes.

Students explored the affects of social pressure surrounding women's appearance and how that affects their well-being. They also studied a range of health-related subjects including women and AIDS, biased anthropology, genital mutilation, homeopathy and healers, health information on the web, and the history of birth control. Last week they publicly exhibited their semester research projects in a seminar called "Our bodies for ourselves."

The most prominent topic concerned body image. Although blonde, tan, and ultra thin is popular in the U.S. other cultures adopt different images of the perfect women.

"These projects are important because women endânger their health for society's ideal body image," said Cassandra Perkins whose project is titled "Dying to be Beautiful." Perkins began her project as a survey of "perfect" female bodies in non-Western cultures. However, "once I started examining the drastic lengths women go to in other cultures, it occurred to me that they were not much different than the eating disorders and cosmetic surgery which are rampant in American society." She was surprised to discover that women around the world undergo painful, debilitating and possibly lethal procedures to ensure their status as a beauty regardless of ethnicity, economic status, religion, or nationality.

In Asia, for example, a common graduation gift is eye surgery. This entails exchanging the slated-look of the Asian eye for a more European round eye. Although common, this surgery is complicated and women chance scars, infections and losing their vision for this western look.

Surgery in Brazil holds similar consequences, she discovered. The popularity of small breasts and large hips leads women to pay large sums to untrained doctors for plastic surgery. Since Brazilian laws do not require physician licensing, many of these women risk disfigurement.

Some body changing traditions are now profitable businesses. For instance, in Burma, the necks of some Padaung girls are encased in 2 pounds of brass rings at age five. As they grow, the collars are slowly increased to 11 pounds. The elongated necks of these women encased in brass have become such a tourist attraction that the Thailand government now sponsors "giraffe women" zoos, (a slang term found in reference materials used to describe the practice). Because they can earn more money posing for tourists than in the fields, some women voluntarily wear the brass rings around their necks.

Many elderly Chinese women still suffer from the foot binding they underwent as children. By the time a girl turned three years old, all her toes but the first were broken. The feet were then wrapped tightly in cloth strips to prevent them from growing larger than 3.9 inches. Binding, originally a symbol of wealth meant that the family could afford to have a child who wasn't required to work for the family to survive. Today, elderly women whose feet were bound have bone density problems that lead to osteoporosis and arthritis. Many can no longer squat, a movement that is particularly important to toileting and other daily activities in China.

Another student, Jennifer Flinn, whose project included an historical comparison between Japanese and American women's bodies said, "Since idealized body images for a culture are based on what the elite and upper classes look like, they change through time and history as the activities and health of the elite do. I raised the questions: Whose body is beautiful? Why? How do we decide? Ideal body images for a culture do not manifest spontaneously. They evolve along with society and reflect its values. But whose values is it reflecting?" she asked.

In Medieval and Renaissance Europe upper class women were not required to perform manual labor. Therefore, plumpness and light skin represented the 'perfect' body because it reflected privilege. Likewise in Japan during the Jomon and Yamato period, round faces and pale skin were admired because it denoted a woman's wealth. Later, when the kimono developed and became popular, slender women were admired because they could fit into the small cylindrical dress.

When both the American and Japanese economies evolved to a dependence upon industry rather than agriculture, voluptuousness was popularized by socialites who were active, but not so much that they would lose their curves and soft skin. By the mid-twentieth century as wealthy women had time for and were allowed to participate in sports and other strenuous activities, the popular look evolved once again into an admiration for thinness.

This photo was found on an internet site advertising travel in Asia after typing in the phrase "giraffe women".

To find out more information on international women's health issues visit their site at www.mindspring.com/~sphiend/ricca. For information on general women's health, the project participants suggest: the National Women's Health Network (womenshealthnetwork.org.) Health Web (www.healthweb.org), and Eve's Garden (www.evesgarden.net).

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L-R Michelle Rotundo, Harriet Segars, Linda Ross, Darrell Card, Mark Yanker, Tina Hastings

Darrell's Team Has Moved To The Wachovia Building.

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