

Editorial

Thoughts on Apollo: Bringing our Moonstruck Nation Back To Earth

The most conspicuous scientific and technical achievements of our time — nuclear bombs, rockets, computers — are all direct products of war, and are still being promoted for military and political ends that would shrivel under rational examination and candid moral appraisal. The moon-landing program is no exception: it is a symbolic act of war . . .

The program serves more than one purpose. From a military standpoint, it was deliberately planned as a means of swiftly perfecting the equipment of total extermination — the strategic goal toward which our entire megatechnic power system, in the lethal grip of the "myth of the machine," is now pointed.

The secondary purpose of space exploration, which commends it to our affluent society, is to support on an even more exorbitant scale the military-industrial-scientific establishment and maintain the current rates of industrial expansion and financial inflation.

In order to achieve both military power and economic prosperity, every other human enterprise must either be trimmed to meet their needs or abandoned. It is no accident that the moon landing coincides with cutbacks in education, the bankruptcy of hospital services, housing programs and the welfare system, and the mounting dilemma of the urban and natural environment, to say nothing of many other evidences of gross social failure and human deterioration.

In order to make this misappropriation of public funds and human energies acceptable, the space agency has turned the moon landing program into a national sporting event whose excitement is augmented by the fact that, as in speed racing, it provides a morbid thrill in the ever present possibility of spectacularly violent death.

To further mask the real nature of this enterprise, the promoters of space exploration have made the credulous and scientifically uninformed believe that a better future may await mankind on the sterile moon, or an even more life-hostile Mars — as if a change of scene would bring our sick rulers and their still acquiescent victims back to health.

If a successful moon landing leads to a further expansion of space exploration, with a further drain on more important human enterprises and a further neglect of the conditions essential for human survival and development, we may look forward to a corresponding increase in social demoralization and psychological regression.

Only a return to full waking consciousness, with an overwhelming transfer of interest from our dehumanizing technology to the human person, will suffice to bring our moonstruck nation back to earth. Meanwhile, thanks to the very triumphs of technology, the human race hovers on the edge of catastrophe.

— Lewis Mumford, Historian and Urbanologist

The Campus

Opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect the official position of the College. Signed columns, letters and articles are the responsibility of the writer.

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Eco-Activists Fear Thermal Pollution At Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant

Editor's Note: The following is a statement issued by Environmental Quality explaining its opposition to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant now being built at Vernon, Vt. Environmental Quality, along with other conservation and ecology groups in the state, is sponsoring a demonstration at the plant tomorrow.

We are a group of concerned citizens that oppose nuclear power plants. We stand united to stop the construction of the Vermont Yankee Plant in Vernon, Vermont.

The Atomic Energy Commission and the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Power have kept many of the most alarming facts hidden from the public. We firmly believe, along with many members of the scientific community, that nuclear power plants are becoming the greatest polluters of our environment, and will pose the greatest danger to public health, safety, and human survival on this planet.

THE DANGER OF RADIOACTIVITY

The Vernon plant will discharge "low level" radioactive waste into the air and water. Scientists now agree that any increase in present radiation levels may cause an increase in the incidences of leukemia and other types of cancer, as well as birth defects, especially within a 50 mile radius.

Women are more susceptible to the damaging effects of radioactivity than men and a developing fetus much more sensitive than an adult. The AEC does not take these factors into account in arriving at its radiation standard, nor does it take into account the fact that average exposure values have little to do with specific circumstances or to exposure to specific body cells.

These guidelines also ignore the fact that certain animals concentrate the radiation, i.e., radiation is concentrated 100 times in a cow's milk.

ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN

Many accidents involving spills and inadvertent releases of radioactivity have already occurred in nuclear power plant. The problem of human error and technological fail-

ure is always with us. The power plant at Vernon is particularly dangerous for several reasons: It is located at a narrow segment of the Connecticut River where, for much of the year, the rate of flow of the river is insufficient to supply the plant with enough cooling water.

To compensate for this the plant will rely in part upon the Vernon Dam built in 1913. This decision was made without a physical examination of the Dam. The dam lies in an active earthquake zone where small but frequent shocks have been reported. In the event that the cooling water supply to the plant should fail, either because of an earthquake or because the dam breaks, the cores containing the uranium inside the power plant will melt and fuse. This means the closing of the plant and could mean the sudden dumping of much of the accumulated radioactive wastes into the Connecticut River and in the air.

About 65% of the time the prevailing winds blow from south to north through Vermont. Thus any radioactivity emitted from the exhaust stack would probably be carried over from Brattleboro, a population center of more than 12,000 people.

The Vermont Yankee Plant is the largest Boiling Water Reactor (BWR) to have ever been built. It is thus in many respects an experiment. Experience with smaller BWR's has shown that they release progressively more radioactivity during each successive year of operation. Most of the 21 BWR's built so far to provide electricity have either been shut down or are operating sporadically, far below their maximum capacity, because of a variety of technical problems.

The installation of cooling towers at the Vernon plant is not an unmixed blessing. Fog conditions prevail about 30% of the year in the Vernon area. The plant will create more fog, especially during the fall and spring. These fogs will increase the dangers from the radioactive releases by creating and maintaining temperature inversions, which

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Davis, Hayes to Speak . . .

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Proctor terrace, where important anti-pollution bills will be described and 6 cent stamps sold to those who wish to write to their congressmen urging prompt anti-pollution action.

Earth Day will end a month of anti-pollution activity including a demonstration at the site of the Vernon nuclear power plant, and Governor Davis' "Green Up Day," scheduled for April 18, when students will devote time to clearing litter from the Vermont landscape.

Study of Otter Creek

In Middlebury, Environmental Quality is currently planning a study of the water quality of Otter Creek, (into which local businesses have apparently been

dumping untreated sewage) and a "Solid Waste Survey" conducted in an effort to determine what methods of waste disposal are being used in the dump north of town.

Environmental Quality hopes that Earth Day, along with these other measures, will lead to increased knowledge and concern on the part of the public in regard to the threat of increased pollution, as well as increased action by the legislature of Vermont, one of the leading states in the anti-pollution drive.

Disappointment

A spokesman for the group has expressed disappointment in the College faculty and administration because of their poor response to the program. Out of 113 invitations extended to professors and administrative personnel to speak, only 28 were answered. "The general attitude," he said, "seems to be, 'It's a fine job you're doing, fellows, but don't let it get in my way.'"

Further, although the number of colleges participating in Earth Day is more than twice that of those involved in the Moratorium of October 15th, neither administration nor faculty has made any move to cancel classes or promote participation in the program. The college council, one E.Q. member concluded, seems "singularly unimpressed" with the coming of Earth Day, which seeks to solve a problem "just as real and as pressing as Viet Nam."



Gov. Deane C. Davis

MyLai

*was where the massacre occurred,
where the murder happened,
when in hot March a hamlet
huddled to die.*

*Boots came sucking from the wood
to catch the unarmed unarmed,
mothers lulled with the
music of their chores,
aged men creased like bark,
young girls unexpected;
the killers came
as noisy birds fled flapping
from a circle of red, lifting
like smoke above the gradual scream.*

*Boots brought bullets
whining through the reedy huts,
drilled the hundred bodies clean
when they folded like flags in the mud,
did not halt for one
who held forever in her belly
as she burst.
Two tried running, but
their slow legs bent like twigs.
They were small and
ridiculous when they flopped
in the tall grass.*

*the stained grasses of My Lai, where
the murder happened,
where the massacre occurred.*

Bruce Morgan

Letters To The Editor

McCarthy and the New Politics

To the Editor:

Robert Metzger's review of three memoirs of the McCarthy campaign, including Senator McCarthy's own account, combined a sensitive personal sketch with a perceptive critical analysis of the political movement which gave rise to the New Politics in America. Drawing on Jeremy Larner's Book, *Nobody Knows: Reflections on the McCarthy Campaign of 1968*, Mr. Metzger concludes his article with the observation that 1968 was the year that "began radiant with promise and ended with the election of the antithesis of New Politics — Nixon and Agnew."

Acquired Insight

Senator McCarthy is characterized as an essentially a political man, an "anti-hero" "aspiring for the great office, while holding in contempt the process through which it is attained." He is "the prophet" and "the duty of the flock (is) to listen and obey and not to question the words of the deity." Of the staff members, including himself, Mr. Metzger writes: "But we were all 'true believers' for I think everyone felt that the Senator had something intangible — some fundamental understanding that was beyond our comprehension — that explained everything."

I suggest that whatever there was about Senator McCarthy that was beyond your comprehension, Mr. Metzger, you have

demonstrated an acute understanding of the man in his campaign. Furthermore, if the energies of the intelligent and politically active of your generation are to be put to constructive use, you must face up to the consequences of your newly acquired insight.

Ethic Of Ends

Weber, to whom you referred in discussing McCarthy, distinguished the ethic of ends from the ethic of responsibility. With that distinction he meant to indicate the price involved in entering the political arena. He taught what you know and what McCarthy either did not know or knew and refused to act on, namely, that a politician must "descend from (the) philosophic-poetic clouds to dirty his feet in the grime of the actual political world."

Weber reminds us that as long as we hold to the political first principle that all men are created equal, the only way to gain the power to govern is by gaining the consent of the governed, and that this requires a willingness to campaign to win, which in turn requires a healthy amount of ambition, a love of political action and a love of fame. Weber supplies us with only half the lesson from the McCarthy campaign, however; for the other half we must turn to your own experience with and description of McCarthy.

Good Politics

If self government is to be enlightened and if it is to persist, then we need political leaders who can and will give rational and persuasive arguments to support their sound policies, not prophetic and mystical pronouncements. Charismatic leaders, to use another of Weber's terms which is in a way appropriate to McCarthy, need not be democrats, and even if they are, their very rejection of reasoned argument and their demand for unquestioned allegiance insures that no one else will participate in politics.

I conclude by returning to the antithesis between the New Politics and Nixon and Agnew. If McCarthy symbolized the New Politics, and if he disdained self-government and reasoned argument, we must look elsewhere for a New Politics that is good politics. We must look to other men who have the ambition of President Nixon, along with a better understanding of how to get popular consent, for those men and those measures that can best serve the public interest.

Political Insensitivity

That disdain for political activity and for self-government persists as a characteristic of the New Politics was illustrated by Miss Barbara Sullivan's comments (last week's letter to the editor) about student anti-war activity in Middlebury and their insensitivity to the attitudes and feelings of the townspeople. If we wish to avoid the McCarthy error of thinking that "the duty of the flock is to listen and obey and not to question the words of the deity," we might begin by reintroducing reasoned arguments into the political discussions and activities and pertaining to our own college and town communities. Toward that objective, the Cam-

pus, in this last semester, has made a major contribution.

Murray Dry
Political Science

Whose Ruling Class Ass?

To the Editor:

This letter is addressed primarily to the young man pictured in last week's "Campus," carrying the sign, "Kick the Ass of the Ruling Class."

Did it even OCCUR to him that he was insulting his own father and mother? They must belong to the "ruling class" (i. e., Establishment?) or he wouldn't even be in Middlebury.

The point being made here, is that if he is a man and not a wet behind the ears juvenile, he should PUBLICLY apologize to his parents, as well as the parents of his friends and fellow-students.

A PROTESTING
GRANDPARENT

Student Senate:

A Dead Horse?

To the Editors:

I have to plead guilty to the fact that I am a freshman and that I have only been at Middlebury for a month and a half. However, during that time I have seen a great deal here, and there is an old saying where I come from to the effect that you don't have to eat all of a dead horse to know that it is going to taste bad. And likewise, you don't have to attend Middlebury for three or four years before you see errors and injustices. By the way, the subject of dead horses immediately suggests that moribund but still unburied group, the Student Senate.

PLOSH

The mere mention of that famous organization infuriates any intelligent individual and makes me want to cry "PLOSH" to such a callow throsel. But, no such luck.

The Student Senate is an interesting group. They or it have demonstrated a tremendous lack of control and a frequent inability to conduct even the most elementary business. Or some-

times, any business at all. Such was the case on the fifteenth of last month when a very important meeting was called and a quorum failed to appear. The absence of a quorum seems to be a recurring ailment for the Middlebury Student Senate, and it only contributes to the general inefficiency and ineffectuality of this debating society which is supposed to be representing and serving the students. Neither of which functions it performs very well.

Action Not Words

These are times which demand action and not words. The Senate attempts to deal with the Administration and cannot make up its collective befuddled mind as to what should be done. The Senate should be emphasizing the trite but very true fact that college exists for the benefit of its students and not the other way around. Yet for some strange reason a peculiar inversion has taken place and the students have become, for all intents and purposes, subservient to the collegiate machine.

The Student Senate is either hypnotized by the rhetoric of the New Left or the Right because very little is being done

Untitled

*Swan wild beaten wing,
Native wicker in the night,
Your silence turns my mind
Into troubled brick yard ways —
Racketing through a crusty madness
From no forests formed.*

*Come!
The night is warm.
Come!
Skies lend their dark.
Come!
Your eyes flash my truth . . .*

*We will not lie lonely in the night;
Our breaths will mingle.
Our curse will die outside the walls
Built in cons past by fur
And longing howl to baying moon . . .*

*It purls through the wood
Bathing all in its release
From the curse of too long longing
For the hard promised soft palmed Springs . . .*

*Come!
We have waited too long.
Come!
Springtime claws upon the reversed wall.
Come!
Your inborn promise seeks for words.*

— George Matteson

to correct this basic and overriding fault.

I can recommend going to a Senate meeting if there is nothing funny on television.

Bill Wood

Buffalo Faculty

Defense Fund

To the Editor:

I would like to draw the attention of this community to certain ominous occurrences at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The following account of these occurrences takes the form of a paraphrase of (and quotation from) a hand-out distributed by the Buffalo Faculty Defense Fund:

As a result of a series of disturbances (such as window glass breakage) starting, apparently, on Feb. 25th the Acting President of SUNY-B, Peter Regan, invited 400 policemen onto the campus on March 8th.

Fact-Finding Commission

"That same day, an interim fact-finding commission, recognized and supported by the administration, released its report

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FLYING ZONKERS: Pictured above with their newly won "Full-Wing Pilot Badges" are Senior ROTC cadets (l. to r.) Paul Bohlen, Lawrence Colvin, Stuart Parnes, and Jeff Sturges. The cadets received their wings upon completion of the Army ROTC flight program, which also qualifies them for fixed-wing pilots' licenses.

Letters To The Editor...

Defense Fund...

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on the events of February 25. That report stated that the administration, by its own acts of commission and omission, carried a heavy burden of responsibility for the tension and sporadic violence which disrupted our campus between February 25 and March 8. The administration ignored the report."

On March 11th, at a special meeting of the Faculty Senate, the Acting President announced that he was planning a "phased withdrawal" of the police and the faculty demanded the immediate withdrawal of all the police. But the "overwhelming" faculty vote was ignored and the following day violence flared between students and police.

Open Discussion

"They hoped to express their convictions that the time had come for open discussion, that the campus required a direct response from the administration concerning the pressing issues still facing us, that they no longer would allow the acting president to disregard the needs of the campus while he played to the inflamed instincts of the surrounding community. Within less than an hour they had all been arrested.

"All forty-five were charged with 1. Criminal contempt (up to one year in prison and \$1000 fine); 2. Criminal trespass (up to 3 mos. in prison and a \$500 fine); 3. Civil contempt of the New York Supreme Court (up to 6 months in prison and a \$250 fine).

Criminal Trespassers

That such a show of concern should be interpreted as contempt and that faculty members quietly meeting on university premises should be regarded as criminal trespassers reveals how grim conditions here now are."

I was a student at Buffalo last year and have nothing but love for the University there. We all agree, presumably that armed police have no business on campus. Nor, of course, do window smashers. But the latter must be dealt with by the other members of the campus community. The actions of the Buffalo 45 (those few known to me personally could, for what it's worth, by no means of the imagination be considered 'radicals') demonstrate a healthy awareness of this.

Defense Funds

I urge everyone to send contributions to: Friends of the Hayes Hall 45, Defense Fund, 131 High Park Boulevard, Buffalo, New York 14226.

Trying to choose my words carefully I nevertheless must say that, in my view, conviction of these men would be a disastrous setback. They surely deserve all the support they can get.

Fraternaly,
Gary Watson

Frats And SDU'S Half-Truths

To the Editor:

For the past three issues, readers of the Campus have been exposed to some rather rhetorical writing on the issue of fraternities and the SDU's.

These one-sided views have been based, for the most part, on half-truths — arguments without any foundation.

Messrs. Glassman and Miller seem to be paranoid about the decline of the fraternity system — especially since they see the administration (that omnipresent scapegoat) behind such a movement. To my mind, the only thing that will defeat the frats, is the frats themselves and their "weekend beer blasts" (Samp).

SDU's

Contrary to John Larkin's feelings, freshmen have never been "brainwashed with the advantages (note his choice of words) of the SDU's." The choice is an independent one — no propaganda campaigns are waged.

Obviously, there are benefits in both systems. I prefer to contract with the Dining Room as it offers a greater choice of places to eat and with whom. I can eat — not continually cooped up with the same faces, talking about the same things, day after monotonous day. Surely this is the truly independent system.

Ridiculous Statement

And Eric Samp's statement that the college governs the SDU member's social, eating and sleeping life is, needless to say, ridiculous. The units are run entirely by students — any (even frat members!) can make suggestions and have a say in the workings. By contrast, how much access have I to a frat?

Jay Glassman may well be in the position to effect changes — but he'd better work fast. The frats need to offer something to the student — but what? I hope he is able to find out. Perhaps, though, even he is giving up, for on some days you'll find him getting fed free of charge in the SDU's — guess they can't be that bad after all.

Marshall Webb

Frats And The Unfulfilled

To the Editor:

Middlebury College is of necessity engaged in the business of education. The administration of the college must anticipate the needs of the student body, estimate the costs of these needs and carry out plans for financial support accordingly. In one particular area — that of the Social and Dining Units — the college has apparently made a grave financial error. Middlebury students, who have invested in their educations, suffer accordingly.

The Social and Dining Units were intended to provide women and independent men with an improved social atmosphere and thus to coexist with fraternities. The cost of the SDU's apparently exceeded expectations. As a result, the units must become an overwhelming success in order to gain the finances necessary to overcome the college's mistakes. The college must pour additional money into the units to insure that they remain attractive to students, even to the point of competing with fraternities.

Useful Purpose

Fraternities do serve a useful purpose at Middlebury. For one thing, they allow young men to

let off steam in a friendly atmosphere at their own expense. There is always an element of college people who get drunk, break windows and basically make a mess. It is part of being young. Part of growing older is realizing that such messes must be cleaned up. Fraternity brothers clean and repair their own houses on Sunday mornings, but it appears that the members of the SDU's will have the dirty work done for them by college janitors and P-ladies.

The result is that Middlebury College will produce for society a group of dependent and irresponsible adults. It is too bad that because of mistakes in financial planning many Middlebury students will be dissuaded from the opportunities which fraternity membership provides, and some of the most important needs of college students will remain unfulfilled.

Gary Higginbottom
President, Zeta Psi

Rapping About Stagnant Midd

To the Editor:

The time has finally come when I feel that I must speak about some things which seem to me undeniable necessities. The Class of 1974 is in serious danger of entering a very stagnant Middlebury. We, the present population, must prevent this in two ways:

1) We must voice adamant demand for the adoption of O'Brien's proposed Freshman Program.

2) We must begin a serious student-faculty investigation of the present situation in terms of curricular, departmental, grading, tenure, social, and financial structures.

Personal Frustration

My reasons for proposing this course of action are many; my own personal frustration with my education has been growing, and I can no longer be in acquiescence with nor allow myself to be subjected to this.

The tragic irony of this year's Conference was apparent to me. While most of us will readily admit that Midd is not a Utopia of the educational process, and some will admit that they are satisfied with the system here, it took "experts" (e. e., Schwab, Kline, Conant, etc.) to put some of our own questions into a public rap. It took a student from the "Outside World" (i. e., Mark Gerzon) to express the idea that education should be for "making better people," which many here feel, but don't seem to be actualizing.

"Okay, it was said — Once again, we rapped, according to pattern we "established a dialogue," and now, according to pattern, it's back to Quietude.

But something's happening here. Wednesday, March 25, one hundred students turned out for a meeting of the Student Investigation Committee. The need is definitely here, I feel, to re-appraise where our heads are at in relation to the College. The desire is strong in a few to do this; in others, muted. S. I. C. means getting together, moral support, human help, self-decided roles in the function of the investigation, and personal commitment.

Some Questions

Here are some of my questions:

1) How are the S.D.U.'s functioning in terms of the "social" aspect? What do they mean for the fraternities?

2) Why isn't there a co-op dorm on this campus?

3) Why didn't the Student Senate work? Was it due to the nature of the Students elected or was it something non-workable about their relationship to the larger realm of student-faculty — administration relationships?

4) What is going on in the tenure hassle? Is tenure in the interests of a few or for the school at large?

5) Does Middlebury really need a new field house?

6) Why is it so difficult to set up Independent Study projects for individual work or group study?

7) What does a "liberal arts education" mean, or for that matter, how does Middlebury define "education" and is it working that way?

8) How does the departmental structure relate to learning?

9) Are prerequisites necessary or just for "snob appeal?"

10) Do the results of the distribution requirements bear out their designed purpose?

11) What are Middlebury's financial priorities and who decides them?

12) Are grades a valid judgment of student performance? Why is pass-fail-honors only available during Winter Term?

13) Why is it the responsibility of professors to design Winter Term courses? Is it perhaps why the main activity for some is on the ski slopes?

Condemnation

If indeed Middlebury suffers a condemnation from me in many of the implied answers to the above questions, it has at

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Nuclear Pollution...

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will trap the radioactivity in the lower atmosphere.

In preparation for a possible nuclear catastrophe, the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corporation has prepared an EVACUATION PLAN for the town of Brattleboro. Plans for decontamination and treatment are planned for the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital. In case of a bad accident, would the hospital be capable of caring for several thousand patients? RADIOACTIVE WASTES: STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

Wastes from the Vernon plant will be shipped to a reprocessing plant. Shipping accidents have already occurred, but the effects will not be known for some time. Highly radioactive wastes are stored in huge tanks underground. These tanks, with a capacity of 300,000 to over one million gallons, currently hold 90 million gallons. One quart of this liquid, were it to get into the drinking water supply of a major city, could kill over 1 million people. Over 100 leaks have been found, one of which leaked over 60,000 gallons into the ground before it was discovered. The stored material will remain dangerously radioactive for over 1000 years. Do we have a

right to endanger the lives of our descendants in this way?

NUCLEAR WARHEADS

All nuclear power plants produce plutonium. The only significant use for plutonium is in nuclear warheads. The AEC counts on there being enough nuclear warheads to supply the military with sufficient by-product plutonium to fashion 10,000-100,000 nuclear warheads per year. There is growing evidence that the nuclear plant program is being pushed as a means of getting the American taxpayer to foot the bill for the deployment of ABM and MIRV. The problem is that the production of electricity in this manner will have many fatal aspects, most of which are now unknown.

THE ATOMIC COMMISSION — PROTECTOR OF THE PUBLIC?

The AEC is the only agency in the U. S. that has the power both to regulate and to promote nuclear power plants. The AEC has a long history of irresponsibility regarding public health and safety. This history includes claims that there is no danger from nuclear fallout, from underground nuclear explosions, or from the plutonium lost during the Rocky Flats, Colorado, fire.

Protest...

Continued from page 1

struction of the plant pending a review of AEC radiation standards, and a review of the role of the AEC as "both regulator and promoter" of atomic power.

Middlebury's Environmental Quality Group is helping to plan the action with other Vermont groups. A delegation of Middlebury students will attend the action, assembling at Proctor Terrace at 6:00 a. m. Transportation will be provided.

The protest has been schedul-

ed for Green-Up Day, a spokesman for the group said. "to make the connection between cleaning up pollution and cleaning up the causes of pollution." The protestors plan to carry "Green-Up Bags" and collect litter along the march route.

Speakers at the rally include the leaders of both Vermont and National environmental quality organizations. Irving Lyon, chairman of the National Committee to Stop Environmental Pollution, Larry Bogart, presi-

dent of the Anti-Pollution League, and Gerry James, president of the Brattleboro Anti-Pollution are scheduled to speak at the noon rally.

The theme of the demonstration is taken from a quotation of LaMont C. Cole, Professor of Ecology at Cornell, that the "rush to blanket the Northeast with nuclear power plants is one of the most dangerous and misguided steps ever taken by man." CBS television plans to cover the demonstration.