



ARIZONA NEWSLETTER

DOCTORS FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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AUTHOR OF NUCLEAR WAR SURVIVAL SKILLS TO VISIT PHOENIX AND TUCSON

Cresson Kearny will speak on the subject of "nuclear winter" and its implications for civil defense in Phoenix on February 20 and in Tucson on February 21.

Mr. Kearny, a geologist and civil engineer who recently retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, is best known for his work in civil defense research, particularly the invention of the Kearny Fallout Meter. The KFM was featured in Dean Ing's science fiction novel Pulling Through and in Warday by Whitley Strieber and James Kunetka, a new novel depicting life in America after a "small" nuclear war.

In addition, Mr. Kearny has designed blast and fallout shelters, and developed ventilation equipment. His hand-operated ventilation pump was recently built and tested in a Chinese furniture factory, during a visit to the People's Republic of China, where he exchanged civil defense information with Chinese officials.

At the 4th International Seminar on Nuclear War, held in August, 1984, in Erice, Sicily, Mr. Kearny presented a paper entitled "Fire Emissions and Their Uncertainties." His critique of the assumptions in the so-called TTAPS report was published in the January 25 issue of Science, along with a rebuttal by Turco, Sagan, et al., who had to resort to misquotation. Since Science doesn't publish rebuttals to rebuttals, plan to hear Mr. Kearny's response in person.

In Phoenix, Mr. Kearny will address Arizonans for National Security at a noon luncheon, Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Econo Lodge, 2247 E. Van Buren St. The public is welcome. The cost of the luncheon is \$5. Reservations are not usually required, but to be certain of a place and a copy of the written material, call the program chairman, Mr. Bruce A. Rogers, 966-8919.

In Tucson, Mr. Kearny's discussion will be the second session of the class "Is There Survival in the Nuclear Age?" taught by Dr. Orient under the auspices of the Tucson Open University. Class is held at the Pima County Medical Society Building, 5199 E. Farness from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. For more information, call Dr. Orient, 325-2689.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

STAR WARS: The Return
of the Jedi.

When: 3:30 pm Thursday,
February 28

Where: Optical Sciences
Auditorium (401),
Univ. of Ariz.

Speaker: Dr. Cory F. Coll, III
Livermore Natl. Lab

Sponsor: U of A Optical Sci.

Livermore is our nation's
primary weapons development
center. Learn what is now
possible in missile defense.

THE OTHER SIDE

When: 7:30 pm Thurs, Mar. 4

Where: Soc. Sci. Aud. U of A

Subject: National Security:
Challenge to Business
& Professional People

Speaker: Harold Willens

Sponsor: Physicians for
Social Responsibility

Mr. Willens, a Russian-born
business executive, is the
leader of the California
Nuclear Freeze movement.

MARCH DDP MEETING

When: 7 p.m. Wed, March 13

Where: Pima Plaza Building
2030 E. Broadway

Subject: The Nuclear Winter
Snow Job

Speaker: by videotape,
Howard Maccabee PhD, MD

Dr. Maccabee is immediate
past president of DDP. He
practices radiation-oncology
in California. He is also a
nuclear physicist.

SAGAN AND KGB AGENT EXPLAIN THE WAY TO PEACE

After a doomsday movie ("Threads," see below) and a grim discussion of nuclear winter ("On the Eighth Day"), WTBS cable television suggested a means for "Breaking the Spell."

"Four friends" (Carl Sagan, Noel Gayler, Roald Sagdeev--the "Soviet Carl Sagan"--and Gyorgi Arbatov, the last participating via television from a Moscow studio) had a "friendly, futuristic" discussion. The moderator, Father Ted Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame University, exclaimed at the end that there had been "not one serious disagreement!"

They all thought "Threads" was an understatement, that current levels of "overkill" are insane, and that we had to work together to "overcome our burden of hate and prejudice." Sagan said that the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. were like an old married couple, each spouse thinking himself or herself to be perfect. Arbatov assured us that the Soviets love life and grass and trees. He called the Americans by their first names.

Arbatov is, as advertised, director of the Institute for the USA and Canada. But Father Ted understated his credits. He is believed to be one of the masterminds in the KGB "Active Measures" department, which specializes in deception. Of his institute's staff, about one third are regular officers of the KGB (see The Apocalyptic Premise: Nuclear Arms Debated, edited by Ernest W. Lefever and E. Stephen Hunt). Some may not consider the connection to be pertinent; presumably, they would consider membership in the CIA equally irrelevant.

The most interesting suggestion was made by Noel Gayler: that fissionables be diluted with uranium 238 and burned up in nuclear power plants, to provide people with heat and light. Fuel treated in this way cannot be used for bombs without treatment that is much more difficult and expensive than the usual method of manufacturing them.

Sagan believes that salvation lies in a joint manned expedition to Mars. We learn to trust by entrusting our lives to each other. Such a venture, he said, would be cheaper than the "Star Wars" defense initiative.

If we turn our attention to the dust storms of Mars, then we need not see the blood and gore that cleaning crews swabbed from the walls of the Lubyanka Prison every few hours, before it was converted into KGB headquarters.

Physicist Freeman Dyson said that "hope means more than wishful thinking." It also means more than faith in spells and other forms of magic.

"THREADS": FIRE AND ICE IN BRITAIN. COULD AGRICULTURE SURVIVE?

Unraveling the thread of society was the theme of the BBC version of "The Day After." "Threads," a didactic presentation with many figures flashed upon the screen, was the springboard for a discussion of nuclear winter. No memorable characters appeared, certainly no heroes, only victims. The news reports preceding the conflagration had the same "balanced" themes as in the ABC film. The implied reasons for the attack upon Britain were the existence of US air bases there, British reinforcements to NATO, and displays of resolve.

After being hit with 210 megatons, many survivors remained. The government did make an effort to give the population some rudimentary civil defense instructions--but too little, too late. Scenes of chaos, hysterical shrieking, and vomiting ensued. Within one generation, people evidently forgot how to talk in complete sentences, and agriculture became medieval.

Could agriculture hope for any better outlook? A serious study by A.A. Jackson of the University of St. Andrews considers both the short term supply for British survivors and the eventual recovery of agriculture. He argues that advance contingency planning is both essential and worthwhile. Even if farm productivity were reduced to 1910 levels--a reasonable possibility--it would still be higher than presently achieved by collectivized agriculture in the U.S.S.R.