

the reactor

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By Paul Axevedo



I wouldn't want to be in your shoes. You're going to have to make some agonizing choices come Tuesday, June 8. You'll have to balance off people and ideas. You must choose, from among the political entrees on the menu, the ones least likely to give you the governmental version of sour stomach.

Unfortunately, I am in your shoes. I vote every election, conscientiously. Every so often I look back with regret.

I've never regretted the times I voted for Jean Fassler for supervisor. She is an asset to Pacifica and San Mateo county, as well as being an admirable person.

(I don't always follow her advice, continuing, for example, my wasteful practice of showering alone.)

Mrs. Fassler's endorsement of Fred Lyon for Supervisor is just one more reason to vote for him. Fred is young, vigorous. I judge him to be an honest man, a quality of vast importance in a politician.

He represents an opportunity to continue Mrs. Fassler's middle-of-the-road stand on San Bruno mountain.

I wish Lyon was less opposed to road improvements such as freeway 380. However, when you put a good, intelligent person in office, he often matures, and learns to balance and juggle ALL the needs of a community. Fred strikes me as the kind who will not intransigently or dogmatically follow a "party" line.

While Fred Lyon stands a good chance of being our next supervisor, Bruce Makar has two chances of becoming the Republican state senator in this overwhelmingly Democratic district; slim, and none.

You might reasonably ask me why I'm voting for him, then. After all, I don't lightly vote for a Republican. I need a good reason. Paul McCloskey was an excellent reason. Makar is another, and his opposition, John Foran is a third.

Makar would make a good senator. He would represent San Mateo county well. Foran is little more than Leo McCarthy's Charlie McCarthy.

It's traditional that the most important proposition on the state ballot be the last. Prop. 15 is no exception.

The proposition is there because of fear. It's the most justified fear I know. The price the world must pay for nuclear power is horrendous and unjustified.

We can get the same power from solar and wind sources. Take electricity from the sun, power from the wind. Use it. That's the end of the matter.

Nuclear power, on the other hand, extracts a Faustian exchange. The "contract" might well have been extracted by the devil himself.

After the example of the OPEC petroleum blackmail, we should never allow control of power to be centralized. Nuclear power is centralized power.

Nuclear power plants will kill. Something can happen, therefore, inevitably, something will happen, given time. Accidents... conspiracy... sloppiness... carelessness... either in guarding the plants or their waste products. It is a matter only of time.

The waste products of atomic power, so powerful that three specks the size of a period (...) can kill, must be carefully guarded, actively "managed" for the next 10,000 generations, by trained, civilized, knowledgeable protectors.

I don't believe the power companies when they tell me that nuclear power plants are safe. Why not? They won't accept the responsibility, and their insurance companies won't take the risk!

I bow to their superior judgment. If they won't take the risk with their money, why should I blindly accept the risk to the lives of myself and my family, not to mention yours.

The modest requirements of Prop. 15, namely, that the plants be proven safe, are if anything, too little and too late. I'm voting yes! It's safer!