

3-25-81



the reactor

by Paul Azevedo

The water board has a problem. Can you believe it? They want to generate their own power with windmills, but first somebody has to be able to prove that we have wind around here.

And they can't get the proof because they're afraid that if they try, somebody will sabotage the anemometers needed to do the checking.

Isn't that a Catch-22 situation for you?

The McDonald's restaurants in Daly City, one across from the Serramonte Shopping Center, the other visible from 280 south of John Daly Blvd. have recently installed modern wind generators.

The McDonald's franchisee is justifiably proud of his forward-looking approach to energy generation, using power that would otherwise go right over his head.

Perhaps the NCCWD board should dump their consultants, who can't find out if the wind blows, and hire the consultants who helped McDonalds.

Or we could install the test anemometers on top of the police station. Rather than looking for remote locations, let's put them in prominent places, where there will always be somebody looking when vandals happen by.

Or perhaps we don't need to get wind data from Pacifica records at all. There must be many records of wind up and down the California coast. Why not take the records that are available, throw out the extreme high and low figures, average the rest, assume that our wind will be at least 75 or 80 percent of average, and proceed.

Then let's put our wind generators in the most prominent and exposed spots. Let's put them on the pier, on the sewer plant, and on the water towers of the district. If we have to put barbed wire around the water tanks, so be it.

But let's not be so negative that we give up on wind generation before we so much as try it out.

Everything in this world is vulnerable to damage caused by vandals. On the one hand, vandals should be punished severely when they damage property.

On the other hand, let's not give up or give in before we try something so potentially valuable as modern wind generators, especially in an area with as much power potential as Pacifica.

I hope the water board proves not to be of faint heart.

When I mentioned most of Pacifica's delis, restaurants, and fast food outlets last week, I asked what I hoped was a rhetorical question: Did I leave out one of your favorites?

I didn't really expect an answer, but the one I got was the most embarrassing oversight of all.

The Adobe Butcher Shop, "The Friendly Meating Place" in Adobe Plaza has a fine deli operation. I have always thought of the owner, Gunther "Suds" Bier, as a quality butcher, and I tend to forget the deli side of his business.

This in spite of the fact that I've known Suds for 30 years. He and I went through Army basic training in the same nine-man squad. We slept in the same barracks, pulled the same KP. And...his shop is a block from my home. Wonder how Suds fixes crow?